★ALL STARS★
USED TO VS. WOULD

You probably know, we use this expression to talk about habits or repeated actions in the past which we don't do in the present. We can also use 'would + infinitive' to tell a story about our past.

Used to:

We use this expression to talk about habits or repeated actions in the past which we don't do in the present. We also use it to talk about states in the past which are no longer true. For example:

- I **used to** have long hair (*but now I have short hair*).
- He **used to** smoke (*but now he doesn't smoke*).
- They used to live in India (*but now they live in Germany*).

Watch out! With the negative and the question it's **'use'** and not ~~'used'~~:

- Did you use to be a teacher?
- Did he use to study French?
- She didn't use to like chocolate, but she does now.
- I didn't use to want to have a nice house.

Note! With this 'used to' there is no verb 'be'. We **CAN'T** say 'I am used to have long hair'.

Would + infinitive:

Likewise, in this case we use **'would + infinitive'** to talk about a habit or repeated action in the past. We usually use 'would + infinitive' in this way when we're telling a story about the past. So, we can say:

- When I was a student, we **would** often have a drink after class on a Friday.
- When I lived in Italy, we **would** go to a little restaurant near our house.

However, we **don't use 'would + infinitive' to talk about states in the past**. So, if we're talking about the past, we **CAN'T** say:

- I ~~would~~ have long hair.
- I ~~would~~ live in Scotland.

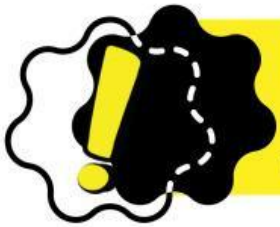
We use '**be used to + verb-ing**' to talk about things which feel normal for us or things that we are accustomed to:

- I'm **used to getting** up early, so I don't mind doing it (= *getting up early is normal for me, it's what I usually do*).
- My little daughter is **used to eating** lunch at noon. So she was grumpy yesterday when we didn't eat until one.

Note that we make the negative or the question with the verb 'be' in the normal way. The 'used to' doesn't change:

- Lucy **isn't used to staying** up late, so she's very tired today.
- Are your children **used to walking** a lot?

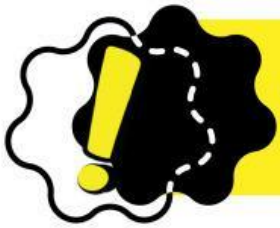
LIVEWORKSHEETS



WITH ANY TENSE:

We can put the verb 'be' into any tense. So we can talk about things in the past or the future as well as the present using this expression:

- It was difficult when I first started university, because I **wasn't used to** the amount of work we had to do.
- Soon I'**ll be used to** driving in London and I won't be so frightened!



We can use 'get used to + verb-ing' to talk about the change of not normal to normal. We can also use this in any tense:

- Don't worry if your new job is hard at first. You'**ll get used to** it.
- It took me a while, but I **got used to speaking** another language every day.
- It took me a few months to **get used to living** in Japan. At first everything seemed very different, but then gradually it became normal for me.

PRACTICE!

If it's possible, make a sentence with 'would + infinitive'. If it's not possible, use 'used to + infinitive':

1. I / have short hair when I was a teenager.

_____

2. We / go to the same little café for lunch every day when I was a student.

_____

3. She / love playing badminton before she hurt her shoulder.

_____

4. He / walk along the beach every evening before bed.

_____

5. I / always lose when I played chess with my father.

_____

6. She / be able to dance very well.

_____

7. My grandfather / drink a cup of coffee after dinner every night.

_____

8. Luke / not have a car.

_____

9. We / live in Brazil.

_____

10. My family / often go to the countryside for the weekend when I was young.

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS