

Are you a **creature of habit**? (*That's a very nice idiom!*)

Are any of these things your habits, too?



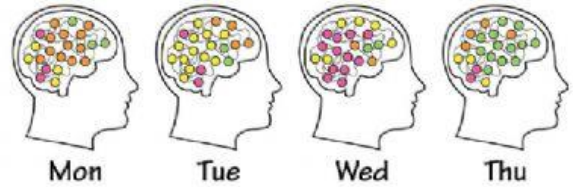
How DO you
express a habit
vs. something
that you once
did *more or less*
routinely,
without
it being a habit?



1. What is the difference between something that is a **HABIT** and something that you do more or less **ROUTINELY**, but which **ISN'T** a habit, especially since dictionary definitions can overlap? ... If you read carefully, though, there is a difference. *Join**:



habit
- or -
routine



N.B., drop drawn lines from the words into the boxes of the paired illustrations

2. So, both things that are *habits* and are *routines* are done regularly and in a repetitive way, and some things can be *both*, but the big difference seems to be that (*choose*):



3. Can you distinguish between them? Which are *more like a HABIT*, not just a routine? (*Tick*)

____ Getting a cappuccino every morning | ____ Getting a cappuccino every morning at Gigi's café



____ Practicing the piano every morning from 9-11 AM | ____ Practicing the piano

____ Eating at the back corner table at GiGi's pizzeria | ____ Eating at GiGi's pizzeria

____ Taking public transport to work | ____ Taking the 94 bus, instead of tram 1, to work

____ Watching a bit of TV on Sundays | ____ Watching Poirot every Sunday afternoon

____ Having a hot chocolate after dinner | ____ Having a hot drink after dinner

____ Reading the newspaper, daily | ____ Reading the newspaper, daily, starting with the sports pages

4. Your turn! Use action verbs as the principal verbs, as I did above (*ungraded*), "My ... is"

HABIT: _____

ROUTINE: _____

5. There's another way to express the difference between *habit* and *routine*, too, with *to be used to* vs. *used to*. We adopt *to be used to* for *habits*, for example, *I am used to getting a cappuccino and a croissant every morning at the corner bar before I go to work*. Answer these for me, first, though. (Tick)



In "to be used to"... _____ "used" is the verb | _____ "to be" is the verb.

In "to be used to," IF "used" isn't the verb, it is _____ an adverb | _____ an adjective.

An -ing form follows "to be used to" because "to" is here... _____ a preposition | _____ part of an infinitive.

HINT: DO the above task, THEN read this: _____.

We can adopt the phrase **in the past tense, too, for past habits that we no longer do**. Look at these:

I was used to getting a cappuccino and a croissant every morning at the corner bar, but it closed.

For 10 years, I had been used to getting a cappuccino and a croissant every morning at the corner bar, but then I moved out of the neighborhood, and I haven't found such a nice bar nearby since.

To show you how it can be adopted together with an idiomatic use of "to get" (which we love), look at these:

I am getting used to getting a cappuccino and a croissant every morning at the corner bar, but I'm having tummy problems.

I was getting used to getting a cappuccino and a croissant every morning at the corner bar before I discovered that I'm lactose intolerant, and that bar doesn't have soy milk, so I had to stop getting the cappuccino.

6. Your turn with "to be used to" for a **habit** (ungraded): _____

7. We adopt “used to” to indicate past routines that don’t happen anymore, ex., *I used to get a cappuccino and a brioche every morning before getting to the office, but now I get a coffee and a cookie, instead.*

In the phrase “used to,” “used” is... _____ a verb | _____ an adverb | _____ an adjective.

In the phrase “used to,” “to” is... _____ a preposition | _____ part of an infinitive.



HINT: DO the above task, THEN read this: _____.

8. It’s already a past tense, so we don’t put “used to” in another indicative past tense. Either the subject has stopped the activity, and has not replaced it with another, or the activity was stopped and replaced, ex.:

I used to take the n. 11 tram line to work, but since they opened the new metro stop, I have been taking that.

I used to have a cappuccino and a croissant every morning on the way to work, but I got tired of it.

Your turn! (ungraded) _____

9. Of course, both phrases can be made with conditionals. Follow these examples:

“to be used to” for being unsure about a current or past habit: *He could be used to taking the n. 11 tram instead of the 94 bus; I don’t know. | He could have been used to taking the n. 11 tram, instead of the 94 bus; I don’t know.*

“used to” for being unsure about a past routine: *He could have used to take the n. 11 tram; I don’t remember.*

Your turn! (ungraded) _____

10. Let's practice! Drag and drop these items under the more likely heading (*N.B., drop boxes are sensitive in their upper left hand corners*):

getting a specific drink every day
from a specific place

taking any convenient public
transportation that passes

something that is just
convenient/is easily changed

something that warms
your heart/is hard to change

always something past

could be present or past

habit
("to be used to + noun / -ing")

routine
("used + infinitive with to")

11. Got it? Are you sure? Let's see! Tick the correct answer (look at both the content and the form):

I am used to sipping hot tea in front of the fire on a winter evening. _____ habit | _____ routine

I'd rather get a coffee on the way to work, than during the break; I'm used to it. _____ habit | _____ routine



I was used to fresh flowers, every day, but they've gotten so expensive!

_____ habit | _____ routine

I used to get fresh flowers, every day, but they've gotten so expensive!

_____ habit | _____ routine

You _____ used to | _____ were used to go to your friend's house more often.

You _____ used to | _____ were used to a beer with friends after work.



12. Let's double check! Draw a line between the correct pairs (*N.B., drop the line in the upper left hand corner*)

Starting the day with yoga

Cuddling with a pet every evening

Using recycled paper

habit
("to be used to + noun / -ing")

^{maybe}
both
(it depends on the person)

routine
("used + infinitive with to")

(N.B., all images are Microsoft Clipart from the Word program used to make this file.)