

# USED TO – BE USED TO – GET USED TO



## Used to / didn't use to + infinitive

I **used to drink** five cups of coffee a day, but now I only drink tea.

When I lived in France as a child I **used to have** croissants for breakfast.

I **didn't recognize** him. He **didn't use to have** a beard.

Use **used to / didn't use to + infinitive** to talk about past habits or repeated actions or situations / states which have changed

**I used to** doesn't exist in the present tense. For present habits, use **usually + the present simple**, e.g. *I usually walk to work. NOT I use to walk to work.*

You can also use **would** to refer to **repeated actions in the past**. *When I lived in France as a child I would always eat croissants for breakfast. But you can't use **would** with **non-action verbs**. NOT I didn't recognize him. He wouldn't have a beard.*

## Be used to / get used to + gerund

Carlos has lived in London for years. He's **used to driving** on the left

I'm **not used to sleeping** with a duvet. I've always slept with blankets.

**A:** I can't **get used to working** at night. I feel tired all the time

**B:** Don't worry. You'll soon **get used to** it.

1. Use **be used to + gerund** to talk about a new situation which is now familiar or less strange
2. Use **get used to + gerund** to talk about a new situation which is **becoming** familiar or less strange
  - You can't use the infinitive after **be / get used to**. NOT *He's used to drive on the left*

## PRACTICE

a) Right (✓) or wrong (X)? Correct the wrong phrases.

1. Nowadays I use to go to bed early
2. When we visited our friends in London we couldn't get used to drink tea with breakfast
3. Sorry, I'm not used to staying up so late. I'm usually in bed by midnight
4. There used to be a cinema in our village, but it closed down three years ago.
5. Paul used to having a beard when he was younger
6. **A:** I don't think I could work at night  
**B:** It's not so bad. I use to it now
7. Did you used to wear a uniform at your school?

b) Complete with *used to*, *be used to*, or *get used to* and the verb in brackets in the correct form.

1. When Nathan started his first job, he couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ at 6 a.m. (get up)
2. If you want to lose weight, then you'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ less. (eat)
3. I don't like having dinner at 10.00 – I \_\_\_\_\_ a meal so late. (not have)
4. When we were children we \_\_\_\_\_ all day playing football in the park. (spend)
5. Jasmine has been a nurse all her life so she \_\_\_\_\_ nights. (work)
6. I've never worn glasses before, but I'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ them. (wear)
7. I didn't recognize you! You \_\_\_\_\_ long hair, didn't you? (have)
8. Amelia is an only child. She \_\_\_\_\_ her things. (not share)

