



- A: How do you feel about your new job? Are you getting used to the new routine?  
 B: Getting up so early is still a bit difficult. I usually get up at midday!  
 A: Really?  
 B: Yes, because I used to work in a bar and we would work until after midnight every night.  
 A: Did you prefer working in the evenings, then?  
 B: No, not at all. I'm used to finishing at midday now and I'm slowly getting used to waking up at four!

### Presentation

#### **usually + present simple**

Use *usually* + present simple to talk about habits or routine actions: *I usually get up at midnight.*

#### **used to and would + infinitive**

Use *used to* / *didn't use to* to talk about a repeated past action, habit or situation: *I used to work in a bar.*

Use *would* + infinitive to talk about a repeated action or habit in the past. (We normally say when it happened.)  
*We would work until after midnight every night.*

#### **be used to**

Use *be used to* to explain that someone is familiar with a situation or a routine: *I'm used to finishing at midday.*

#### **get used to**

Use *get used to* in the present continuous to explain that someone is in the process of becoming familiar with a situation: *I'm getting used to waking up at four!*

Use the past simple to show that the process is complete:  
*I quickly got used to waking up at four.*

#### **TIP**

Use *be/get used to* to talk about the past, present or future.

past: *I was / got used to getting up early.*

present: *I'm / I'm getting used to working in the morning.*

future: *I'll be / get used to getting up at four.*

## Exercises

- 1  Look at the verbs in bold. Replace *used to* with *would/wouldn't* where possible. Then listen and check.

I <sup>1</sup>**used to** love chocolate. I <sup>2</sup>**used to** eat it all day long. Some days I <sup>3</sup>**didn't use to** eat anything else, until one day I developed an allergy to it — and now I can't eat it anymore!

I <sup>4</sup>**used to** be scared of the dark. I <sup>5</sup>**used to** refuse to go into a dark room on my own. My little sister <sup>6</sup>**used to** hold my hand!

I <sup>7</sup>**didn't use to** do any sport at all. I <sup>8</sup>**used to** think I was fit and healthy enough without it. I <sup>9</sup>**used to** spend all day at my desk and I <sup>10</sup>**never used to** ever get any exercise. But then I broke my leg and I had to follow an intensive exercise programme. I actually enjoyed it and I've kept doing sport ever since.

- 1 ..... 4 ..... 7 ..... 9 .....  
 2 ..... 5 ..... 8 ..... 10 .....  
 3 ..... 6 .....

- 2 Rewrite the sentences using *used to* where possible.

1 I went to belly-dancing classes when I was at school.

I *used to go to belly-dancing classes when I was at school.*

2 I started my first classes when I was eight.

3 We took part in competitions.

4 I loved performing in front of an audience.

5 I continued dancing for almost six years.

6 Then I lost interest and I took up basketball instead.

7 I played in the school team and we trained every day of the week.

8 We were pretty good and we won three local championships.

- 3 Choose the correct options.

A: So, what <sup>1</sup>*did you used to do* / *would you do* before you became a teacher?

B: I <sup>2</sup>*usually worked* / *used to work* as a banker in the City, in London.

A: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

B: My working life <sup>3</sup>*used to be* / *got used to be* very stressful. We <sup>4</sup>*'re used to working* / *would work* ten or twelve hours a day, every day, so I decided it was time for a change.

A: Was it difficult to <sup>5</sup>*be used to* / *get used to* your new lifestyle?

B: Well, it took me a bit of time to <sup>6</sup>*used to* / *get used to* living on a teacher's salary! And I <sup>7</sup>*'m not used to* / *wouldn't* working with kids, but now I'm loving every minute of it — well, almost!

A: And what about your new working routine?

B: I <sup>8</sup>*usually* / *used to* work long hours, but when I was a banker I <sup>9</sup>*would* / *got used to* only get ten or fifteen days' holiday a year. Now I have six weeks' holiday in the summer — that's great!