

Used to/Be used to/ Get used to/Would

◆ We use **used to + infinitive** to refer to past habits or states. In such cases, **used to** can be replaced by the past simple with no difference in meaning.
e.g. They **used to travel/travelled** a lot when they were younger. (They don't any more).

◆ We use the past simple, and not **used to**, in the following cases:

a) to refer to an action which happened at a definite time in the past.

e.g. I **drove** to work yesterday. (NOT: ~~I used to drive to work yesterday.~~)

b) to say how many times an action happened at a definite time in the past.

e.g. I **went** to the cinema four times last month.
(NOT: ~~I used to go to the cinema four times last month.~~)

◆ We use **would/used to** for repeated actions or routines in the past.

e.g. We **would/used to** eat out on Sundays.

We do not use **would** with state verbs.

e.g. a) They **used to live** in London.
(NOT: ~~They would live in London.~~ ~ state)

b) I **used to have** a pet dog.

(NOT: ~~I would have a pet dog.~~)

◆ **Be used to + noun/pronoun/-ing form** = be accustomed to, be in the habit of

e.g. a) They **are used to the cold**. (present)

b) I **don't mind walking**. I'm **used to it**. (present)

c) She **wasn't used to living** in the country.
(past)

◆ **Get used to + noun/pronoun/-ing form** = become accustomed to

e.g. a) I **am getting used to the weather**. (present)

b) He **didn't like using** the computer at first, but he **got used to it**. (past)

c) She **will soon get used to wearing** contact lenses. (future)

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Choose the correct answer.

- 1 'Sharon looks different now, doesn't she?'
'Yes. She ... **B** ... to have long dark hair, didn't she?'
A is used B used C would

2 'I have never driven an automatic car before.'

'You will soon to it.'

A get used B be used C used

3 'How is Sarah?'

'She's fine. She to life in the countryside.'

A got used B used C is getting used

4 'Have you always worked as a nurse?'

'No. I a childminder.'

A was used to being B used to be

C am used to being

5 'Do you remember when we were little?'

'Yes. Dad always read us a bedtime story.'

A was used to B would C got used to

6 'Aren't you tired?'

'No. I to walking long distances.'

A am used B got used C used

7 'Jane had trouble with her job at first.'

'Yes. She to working on her own.'

A used B got used C wasn't used

8 'Did you find your degree course difficult?'

'Yes, but I soon to it.'

A used B got used C was used

9 'Do you remember Uncle Danny?'

'Yes. He always bring us presents.'

A would B was used C used

10 'Have you ever lived in a flat before?'

'No, but I will to it.'

A be used B get used C used

11 'Why are you so tired?'

'Because I to getting up early in the morning.'

A am used B used C am not used

12 'Do you know that man?'

'Yes. He to work for me.'

A was used B used C is used

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Mary had to move to Italy for her job. At first, she found living in a foreign country quite difficult, but she is slowly getting used to it. Use the prompts below to talk about how she is getting along, as in the example.

S1: She **wasn't used to living by the sea**, but she **is used to it now**.

S2: She **still hasn't got used to living on her own**.

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|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| • live by the sea | ✓ | • use a new currency | ✓ |
| • live on her own | ✗ | • new customs | ✓ |
| • be away from her family and friends | ✗ | • drive on the other side of the road | ✗ |
| • speak Italian | ✓ | • hot weather | ✓ |