

USED TO / BE USED TO / GET USED TO

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Distinguish past habits, familiarity and the process of adapting.

1. READ: Starting an early shift

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Ruth: How's the new job going?

Eli: Fine, but I **used to start** at nine. Now it's six.

Ruth: That must be a shock.

Eli: It is. I'm still **getting used to waking up** so early.

Ruth: I'm **used to it** now. I've been on early shifts for years.

Eli: At least I finish at two. I could **get used to having** the afternoons free.

2. GRAMMAR: Habit, familiar situation or adaptation

Used to + base verb describes the past; be/get used to + noun or -ing describes familiarity or adaptation.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Past habit / state	used to + base verb	I used to start at nine.
Already familiar	be used to + noun / -ing	I'm used to early shifts.
Adapting	get used to + noun / -ing	I'm getting used to waking early.

Past: I wasn't used to it at first. **Future:** You'll get used to it.

In be/get used to, to is a preposition: used to working, not used to work.

Past habit question: Did you use to start early?

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. I used to work / working nights.
2. I'm used to get / getting up early.
3. You'll get used to the noise / noisy.
4. She wasn't used to drive / driving here.
5. Did you use / used to live nearby?
6. We're getting used to use / using the system.
7. I didn't use to like / liking it.
8. He is used to work / working alone.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Adjusting to a new schedule

Complete the base verb/to-infinitive or -ing pattern after each expression.

1. I used _____ (start) work at nine, but now I start at six.
2. I'm still getting used to _____ (wake) up early.
3. Ruth is used to _____ (work) early shifts.
4. I wasn't used to _____ (travel) before sunrise at first.
5. I didn't use _____ (drink) coffee, but now I do.
6. I think I'll get used to _____ (have) free afternoons.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite using be used to.

Example: Working alone is familiar to me. **I'm used to working alone.**

1. Driving here is familiar to me.
2. Noise is familiar to her.

3-4: Rewrite using the expression given. Example: I'm becoming familiar with it. (get used to) **I'm getting used to it.**

3. I'm adapting to early starts. (get used to)
4. I worked nights, but not now. (used to)

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write a past habit, something familiar now and something you are adapting to.

Example: **I used to live alone. I'm used to sharing now. I'm getting used to a longer commute.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Discuss a change in work, study or home life. Explain what you used to do and what feels familiar now.

Ask your partner what they are still **getting used to**.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: Starting an early shift

Sample target language from the conversation:

Eli: Fine, but I **used to start** at nine. Now it's six.

Eli: It is. I'm still **getting used to waking up** so early.

Ruth: I'm **used to it** now. I've been on early shifts for years.

Eli: At least I finish at two. I could **get used to having** the afternoons free.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. work | 2. getting |
| 3. the noise | 4. driving |
| 5. use | 6. using |
| 7. like | 8. working |

B. COMPLETE: Adjusting to a new schedule

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. to start | 2. waking |
| 3. working | 4. travelling |
| 5. to drink | 6. having |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. I'm used to driving here.
2. She's used to noise.
3. I'm getting used to early starts.
4. I used to work nights.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: I used to drive to work. I'm used to taking the train now. I'm getting used to the new timetable.

Teacher note: Separate the grammatical patterns even when the written words look similar. Be and get change tense normally; used to for a past habit does not use be.