



USED TO & USE TO WOULD TO BE USED TO TO GET USED TO

GRAMMAR LESSON



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1

USED TO & USE TO

We use 'used to' to talk about past habits which we don't do in the present, or past states which are no longer true. We use 'used to' with the base form of a verb.

I used to do yoga (but now I don't have time.)

I used to go to a language school (but I finished the course.)

I used to live in Seville (but now I live in England.)

I used to be a waitress (but now I am a teacher.)

You might have noticed that sometimes we say 'use to' instead of 'used to'. This is a point of confusion for many of my students. In questions and negatives (apart from never), we use 'use', not 'used'.

I didn't use to like avocados, but now I love them!

Did you use to work at the corner shop?

He didn't use to care about his appearance, but now he takes pride in it.

Did they use to go to the same school as us?

2

WOULD

When someone is telling a story about the past, you might hear them use 'would + base verb':

When I lived in Seville, we would eat lunch at 4pm.

When I was studying Spanish, I would watch Spanish TV shows.



We can use **would + base verb** to talk about past habits or repeated actions, but we cannot use it to talk about past states.

'I would live in Seville'

does not mean the same thing as

'I used to live in Seville.'

3

TO BE USED TO

When we want to talk about things that we are accustomed to, or things that feel normal, we use:

to be used to + verb-ing

I am used to running in the cold weather, so I don't mind doing it. (Running in the cold weather is what I am accustomed to.)

My fiancé Will is used to working hard, so when we go on holiday he becomes restless. (Working hard is normal for Will.)

We also use **to be used to + noun/pronoun**:

I live in the countryside, so I am used to mud.

He is very handsome, so he is used to compliments.

My sister is annoying, but I am used to her.

The verb 'to be' can be put into any tense:

When I started waitressing I wasn't used to carrying trays of drinks.

Soon I'll be used to taking public transport and it won't be so intimidating.

4

TO GET USED TO

We use '**to get used to + verb-ing OR noun/pronoun**' to talk about a change in what you are accustomed to. This can also be used in any tense.

At first I didn't like stretching after running, but I got used to it.

I am getting used to public speaking. I hope I'll get used to driving in London soon!



Activity

Fill in the gaps with A, B, or C. The answers are below.

1. When I started waitressing I needed help with carrying trays, but now I _____ them by myself.

- a) used to carry
- b) am used to carrying
- c) get used to carrying

2. I _____ English every day, but now I don't have time.

- a) use to reading
- b) use to read
- c) used to read

3. Don't worry, it is easy to learn this grammar. You _____ it in no time!

- a) will get used to
- b) are used to
- c) used to use

4. I was surprised to see her running - she _____ when I knew her.

- a) didn't use to run
- b) didn't used to run
- c) didn't use to running

5. When I had to take the train to work I _____ very early.

- a) used to getting up
- b) used to get up
- c) use to getting up

6. When I was younger _____ to the shops with my grandma to buy sweets.

- a) I got used to go
- b) I used to going
- c) I would go

7. Whenever we went to London we always _____ in the Grand Hotel.

- a) used to stay
- b) used to staying
- c) got used to staying

8. When you were a teenager did you _____ to rap music?

- a) use to listening
- b) used to listen
- c) use to listen

9. She didn't _____ about fashion but now she spends a lot of money on clothes.

- a) used to care
- b) use to care
- c) used to be care

10) I don't like revising for exams but I _____ it.

- a) am got used to it
- b) am get used to it
- c) am getting used to it

1. b) 2. c) 3. a) 4. a) 5. b) 6. c) 7. a) 8. c) 9. b) 10. c)

The End