

# USED TO / GET USED TO / BE USED TO

## USED TO + INFINITIVE AND BE/GET USED TO

### 'used to + infinitive' and 'be/get used to'

Students have difficulties in making distinction between **used to + infinitive** and **be/get used to + 'ing' form** because they look similar. As a matter of fact, they are totally different.

### used to + infinitive

**Used to** is for things that happened in the past and have no connectivity to present:

*Peter used to smoke three cigarettes a day.*

*My boyfriend used to drink a lot of coffee during sleepless nights.*

*Sarah and her mother used to go out for a walk every day.*

**Negative** form is : didn't (did not) use to: I didn't use to smoke before.

**Question** form is: Did she (subject) use to..? Did she use to drink a lot of coffee?

As you may guess you can not use 'used to' in the present. To talk about present habits we use the present simple and an adverb of frequency (*usually, always, often, never, etc.*)

e.g. *I often eat at the Japanese restaurant in the city centre.*



# BE / GET USED TO

If you **are used to** something, you are accustomed to it – you don't think it is odd. If you **get used to** something or you **are getting used to** something you are becoming accustomed to it – it was strange, now it's not so strange.

*I found Slovak food very strange at first but I'm used to it now.  
I'm getting used to getting up early.*

Both '**be used to**' and '**get used to**' are followed by a noun (or pronoun) or the gerund – the '*ing*' form of a verb.

*I can't get used to getting up so early. I'm tired all the time.  
He's not used to the weather here yet. He's finding it very cold.*

'**Be/get used to**' can be used with past, present and future tenses.  
*You might find it strange at first but you'll soon get used to it.  
He wasn't used to the heat and he caught sunstroke.*

## **SPEAKING:**

What did you use to do but now you don't?  
Eg. : I used to go walking a lot,  
but not any more.

