Grammar worksheet + exercise: be used to, get used to, used to

Be used to

If you are used to something, you have often done or experienced it; it is not strange, new or difficult for you.

I am used to getting up early in the morning. I don’t mind it.

Structure: be used to + noun phrase or be used to + verb (-ing form)

He didn’t complain about the neighbours’ loud party – he was used to the noise.

We live near a forest so we’re used to seeing animals in our garden.

We can also say be used to someone.

I don’t think Tom’s strange – I’m used to him.

Negative: be not used to

I don’t understand him: I’m not used to his accent yet.

I am not used to getting up early in the morning.

Get used to

If you get used to something, you become accustomed to it; it is no longer unusual or strange.

Get used to is the process of becoming used to something.

After a while he didn’t mind the noise in the office; he got used to it.

Living abroad was a shock at first, but I’m slowly getting used to it.

Structure:

Get used to + something/someone

Get used to + verb (-ing form)

I got used to his Scottish accent after a while.

I got used to waking up early in the morning after I started my job at the factory.
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**Used to**

**Used to + verb infinitive** refers to a habit or state in the past. It is used only in the past simple tense.

**Past habits**

If you **used to do something**, you did it for a period of time in the past, but you don't do it any more.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{We used to live in London.} \\
= \text{We lived in London in the past, but don't live there now.}
\end{align*}
\]

\[I \text{ used to walk to school every day when I was a child.}\]

**Past states**

We also say **used to** to express a state that existed in the past but doesn't exist now. States are not actions. We express states with **stative verbs** such as have, believe, know and like.

\[I \text{ used to like The Beatles, but now I never listen to them.}\]

\[He \text{ used to have long hair, but now it's very short.}\]

\[I \text{ used to believe in magic when I was a child.}\]

Questions: **did(n’t) + subject + use to + verb**

\[\text{Did he use to work in your office?}\]

\[\text{Didn't he use to work in your office?}\]

Negatives: **subject + didn’t + use to + verb** or **subject + never + used to + verb**

\[I \text{ didn’t use to like wine, but now I love it.}\]

\[I \text{ never used to like wine, but now I love it.}\]
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English grammar practice exercise, intermediate

In this exercise you will practise *used to, be used to* and *get used to*.

**Exercise instructions**

Choose the best answer to fill the gap in each of the following.

1. When I started to work here I needed a lot of help, but now I _____ all the work on my own.
   a. am used to doing  b. used to do  c. get used to doing

2. He _____ several books a month, but he doesn't have time any more.
   a. was used to reading  b. got used to reading  c. used to read

3. We were surprised to see her driving – she _____ when we first met her.
   a. didn't use to drive  b. got used to driving  c. was used to driving

4. Don't worry, it's a simple program to use. You _____ it in no time, I'm sure.
   a. used to use  b. are used to  c. will get used to

5. When I had to commute to work every day I _____ very early.
   a. used to getting up  b. used to get up

6. I'm afraid I'll never _____ in this place. I simply don't like it and never will.
   a. got used to living  b. used to live  c. get used to living

7. Whenever we came to Coventry we always _____ in the Central Hotel. We loved it.
   a. used to stay  b. got used to staying
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8. When Pete Smith was the head of our office everything ______ well organized. Now it’s total chaos here.
   a. got used to be  b. was used to being  c. used to be

9. Mr Lazy was shocked when he joined our busy company because he ______ doing much work everyday.
   a. wasn’t used to  b. didn’t use to

10. At first the employees didn’t like the new open-space office, but in the end they ______ it.
    a. got used to  b. get used to  c. are used to

Key on next page
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Exercise key

1. When I started to work here I needed a lot of help, but now I a. am used to doing all the work on my own.

2. He c. used to read several books a month, but he doesn't have time any more.

3. We were surprised to see her driving – she a. didn't use to drive when we first met her.

4. Don't worry, it's a simple program to use. You c. will get used to it in no time, I'm sure.

5. When I had to commute to work every day I b. used to get up very early.

6. I'm afraid I'll never c. get used to living in this place. I simply don't like it and never will.

7. Whenever we came to Coventry we always a. used to stay in the Central Hotel. We loved it.

8. When Pete Smith was the head of our office everything c. used to be well organized. Now it's total chaos here.

9. Mr Lazy was shocked when he joined our busy company because he a. wasn't used to doing much work everyday.

10. At first the employees didn't like the new open-space office, but in the end they a. got used to it.

Online version of this exercise https://goo.gl/VnEK7S

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