

53 Old and new situations

New situations may seem unusual, but over time they become familiar. You can use phrases that contain "be used to" and "get used to" to talk about this.

 **New language** "Be used to" and "get used to"

 **Aa Vocabulary** Moving and living abroad

 **New skill** Talking about old and new situations

53.1 KEY LANGUAGE "BE USED TO" AND "GET USED TO"

To "get used to (doing) something" means that you adapt to new or different circumstances so that they become familiar.

Waking up early for my new job was difficult at first, but eventually I **got used to it.**



To "be used to (doing) something" means that you have done it long enough that it is normal and familiar.

I've lived in the city for years, so I **am used to the bad pollution.**



53.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES "BE USED TO" AND "GET USED TO"



When I travel, I **get used to different customs very quickly.**

[I find it easy to adapt to different customs when I travel.]



I **got used to the cold weather within a couple of weeks.**

[I adapted to the cold weather within two weeks.]



I **am used to spicy food as I've always eaten it.**

[I am accustomed to eating spicy food.]



We **were used to the old teacher, so it was a shame when she left.**

[We were accustomed to our previous teacher, but then she left.]

TIP

Do not confuse these phrases with "used to" (without "be" or "get"), which is used when talking about a regular past action.



53.3 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORD IN EACH SENTENCE

When I visit the UK, it takes me a while to **get / be** used to driving on the left side of the road.

- 1 My parents **are / get** used to living in an old building, but the creaking floorboards scare me!
- 2 They **were / get** used to eating with chopsticks, but it was new to me. I found it hard!
- 3 My friend said I'd **am / get** used to eating my dinner later at night after a few weeks.
- 4 It took a while, but now I **get / am** used to recycling all my paper and plastic each week.
- 5 His friends found it strange, but he **was / get** used to doing things without using the computer.
- 6 It was difficult at first, but I **was / got** used to the new routine after a few months.
- 7 We **were / get** used to the old system at work, but then it changed completely.
- 8 Eventually I **got / am** used to answering the phone in English. It almost feels natural now!



53.4 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, CORRECTING THE ERRORS

It has taken me a long time to get use to cycling in the city.

It has taken me a long time to get used to cycling in the city.



- 1 I don't think I will ever got used to the noise in my street at night.



- 2 I'm so used drinking coffee every morning that I can't function without it.



- 3 They said that they could not be used to the icy weather.



- 4 Don't worry. After a while you'll got used to the cold water.



- 5 Do you think that you'll used to the long hours in your new job?



53.5 REVIEW "USED TO"

You can use "used to" (without "be" or "get") with an infinitive to talk about past habits. You can also use it to talk about fixed states in the past, but only in an undetermined timeframe.

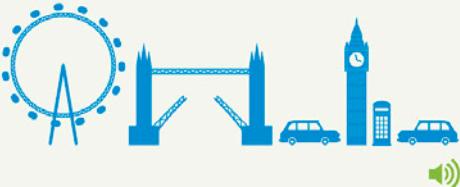
Refers to a past habit.

We **used to** play tennis every day, but now we prefer golf.



Refers to a past state.

We **used to** live in London before we moved to Sydney.



53.6 FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE CORRECT FORMS OF THE WORDS IN THE PANEL

When I was living abroad, I used to go out a lot so that I could meet people and make friends. Even though I was nervous, I used to to any offer people made to try something new. Also, I didn't things to fit around my old routines, but got used to things in line with local customs instead. These were quite unusual at first, but I used to them now. The staff in my local café are used to me mistakes when I talk, but they always appreciate the effort and help me.

be agree make force go out do



53.7 MATCH THE BEGINNINGS OF THE SENTENCES TO THE CORRECT ENDINGS

You may have to get used to days

- 1 Be sure to experiment and try not
- 2 Visit the country before you move
- 3 Ask other people from abroad how
- 4 Don't worry if things aren't what
- 5 Trying activities in your new country

you're used to. That's the adventure!

they got used to the different culture.

to start getting used to the culture.

when you are homesick. It's not unusual.

is a great way to get to know new people.

to only do things you used to do at home.



53.8 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



International news journalist Julie Holmes was asked to describe her greatest culture shocks.

How does Julie feel now when people ask her personal questions?

She feels surprised and offended

She is surprised but not upset

She is no longer surprised by it

1 What examples of personal information has Julie been asked for?

Her age and whether she is married

Her salary and when she will have children

Her age and when she will have children

2 What was a pleasant culture shock for Julie when she was in Spain?

Friends inviting her to family lunches

Lunches lasting a long time

Lunches being quick and efficient

3 What happened after Julie missed her train?

She got a taxi to her home town

She stayed overnight with a friend

She got the last bus home that night

4 What happened in a busy road in Hanoi?

Julie helped an old lady cross the road

Julie crossed the road on her own

An old lady helped Julie cross the road



53.9 RESPOND TO THE AUDIO, SPEAKING OUT LOUD

These festivals are so noisy. Do you think it'll bother you?

Yes, but we'll have to get used to the noise.



1

You always stay up so late! Don't you feel tired the next day?

Not any more. I _____ it now.



2

Why does everyone in the village paint that pattern on their doors?

It's tradition! We _____ doing it.



3

Is it still strange for you to see people dressed in these costumes?

It was at first, but now I _____ them.



4

Were you able to cope with the hot weather when you first moved here?

No, it took me many years to _____ it.



53 ✓ CHECKLIST



"Be used to" and "get used to"



Moving and living abroad



Talking about old and new situations