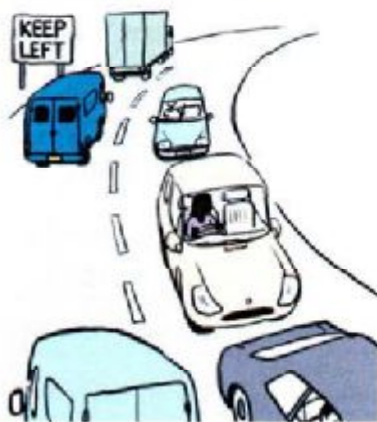


Be/get used to something (I'm used to ...)

A Study this example situation:



Lisa is American, but she lives in Britain. When she first drove a car in Britain, she found it very difficult because she had to drive on the left, not on the right. Driving on the left was strange and difficult for her because:

She **wasn't used to it**.
She **wasn't used to driving on the left**.

But after a lot of practice, driving on the left became less strange. So:

She **got used to driving on the left**.

Now it's no problem for Lisa:
She **is used to driving on the left**.

B I'm used to something = it is not new or strange for me:

- Frank lives alone. He doesn't mind this because he has lived alone for 15 years. It is not strange for him. He **is used to it**. He **is used to living alone**.
- I bought some new shoes. They felt a bit strange at first because I **wasn't used to them**.
- Our new flat is on a very busy street. I expect we'll **get used to the noise**, but at the moment it's very disturbing.
- Diane has a new job. She has to get up much earlier now than before – at 6.30. She finds this difficult because she **isn't used to getting up so early**.
- Barbara's husband is often away from home. She doesn't mind this. She **is used to him being away**.

C After **be/get used** you cannot use the infinitive (to do / to drive etc.). We say:

- She is used to **driving on the left**. (*not* She is used to drive)

When we say 'I **am used to something**', **to** is a *preposition*, not a part of the infinitive.

So we say:

- Frank is used to **living alone**. (*not* Frank is used to live)
- Lisa had to get used to **driving on the left**. (*not* get used to drive)

D Do not confuse I **am used to doing** and I **used to do**:

I **am used to (doing) something** = it isn't strange or new for me:

- I **am used to the weather** in this country.
- I **am used to driving on the left** because I've lived in Britain a long time.

I **used to do something** = I did it regularly in the past but no longer do it. You can use this only for the past, not for the present.

The structure is 'I **used to do**' (*not* 'I **am used to do**):

- I **used to drive** to work every day, but these days I usually go by bike.
- We **used to live** in a small village, but now we live in London.

61.1 Look again at the situation in Section A on the opposite page ('Lisa is American ...').

The following situations are similar. Complete the sentences using **used to**.

- 1 Juan is Spanish and went to live in England. In Spain he usually had dinner late in the evening, but in England dinner was at 6 o'clock. This was very early for him and he found it very strange at first.

When Juan first went to England, he dinner so early, but after some time he it. Now he finds it normal. He at 6 o'clock.

- 2 Julia is a nurse. A year ago she started working nights. At first she found it hard and didn't like it.

She nights and it took her a few months to it. Now, after a year, she's quite happy. She nights.

61.2 What do you say in these situations? Use **I'm (not) used to ...**

- 1 You live alone. You don't mind this. You have always lived alone.

FRIEND: Do you get a bit lonely sometimes?

YOU: No, I'm used to living alone.

- 2 You sleep on the floor. You don't mind this. You have always slept on the floor.

FRIEND: Wouldn't you prefer to sleep in a bed?

YOU: No, I

- 3 You have to work long hours in your job. This is not a problem for you. You have always worked long hours.

FRIEND: You have to work very long hours in your job, don't you?

YOU: Yes, but I don't mind that. I

- 4 You usually go to bed early. Last night you went to bed very late (for you) and as a result you are very tired this morning.

FRIEND: You look tired this morning.

YOU: Yes,

61.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences using **used to**.

- 1 Some friends of yours have just moved into a flat on a busy street. It is very noisy.

They'll have to get used to the noise.

- 2 The children at school had a new teacher. She was different from the teacher before her, but this wasn't a problem for the children. They soon

- 3 Sue moved from a big house to a much smaller one. She found it strange at first. She had to in a much smaller house.

- 4 Some people you know from Britain are going to live in your country. What will they have to get used to?

They'll have to

61.4 Complete the sentences using only one word each time (see Section C).

- 1 Lisa had to get used to driving on the left.

- 2 We used to live in a small village, but now we live in London.

- 3 Dan used to a lot of coffee. Now he prefers tea.

- 4 I feel very full after that meal. I'm not used to so much.

- 5 I wouldn't like to share an office. I'm used to my own office.

- 6 I used to a car, but I sold it a few months ago

- 7 When we were children, we used to swimming very often.

- 8 There used to a cinema here, but it was knocked down a few years ago.

- 9 I'm the boss here! I'm not used to told what to do.