

Used To: Versus Be Used To, Get Used To

FORM:

- **Used to + base verb** → for past habits / actions
- **Be used to + gerund / noun / pronoun** → for actions that are normal, natural, habitual, comfortable
- **Get used to + gerund / noun / pronoun** → suggests a process, a development

USE:

“**Used to + base verb**”, tells us that the main verb was either a past habit or a long-term situation which no longer exists. Note that “**used to**” is not preceded by “**be**”.

The “**be + used to + “-ing” or noun or pronoun**” tells us the subject of the sentence is comfortable with or accustomed to the gerund, noun or pronoun. It means that the subject knows the situation described very well. The verb “**be**” can be conjugated in any form. The situation described can be in the present, past or future.

“**Get used to + “-ing” or noun or pronoun**” tells us that the subject of the sentence is becoming comfortable with or accustomed to the gerund, noun or pronoun. The verb “**get**” can be conjugated in any form. The situation can be in the present, past or future.

EXAMPLES:

Arlene used to live in Bar Harbor, Maine. Now she lives in Paris. When she lived in Bar Harbor, she was used to eating lobster and corn on the cob. After she moved to Paris, she got used to eating salad and cheese after dinner.

Supply **USED TO**, **BE USED TO** or **GET USED TO** in the following sentences.

1. Caroline didn't _____ wear contact lenses.
2. Caroline _____ wearing contact lenses.
3. It took Caroline a long time to _____ wearing contact lenses.
4. David _____ live in Ottawa. Now he lives in Santa Monica, California.
5. David is not _____ living out West.

Intermediate 3 – Exercise 36 – Used To: Versus Be Used To, Get Used To

6. It will probably take some time for him to _____ living in California.
7. Nora has lived in Toronto for many years so she _____ living in a big city.
8. I have taught university students for many years so I _____ teaching adults.
9. He _____ live in Tampa, Florida.
10. It took a long time for her to _____ being a widow.

Write true sentences about yourself using each of the following.

1. used to + base verb: _____
2. used to + base verb: _____
3. be used to + ing: _____
4. be used to + ing: _____
5. get used to + ing: _____
6. get used to + ing: _____

Fill in the blanks using USED TO / GET USED TO / BE USED TO + a base verb or “-ing”.

Sarah didn't like living in Chicago very much. She couldn't _____ in a big city. She only lived in Chicago for a month, which was really not enough time for anyone _____ anything. So after a month, Sarah called her mother and said, “Mom, I want to come home because _____ here!” Her mother responded and said, “I'm sorry my dear, but you will have _____ it, because I have already paid a lot of money for you to be there.” Sarah tried to forget her hometown, but she felt lonely and could only think of all the things she _____ do. After school and on the weekends, she _____ her friends and they always _____ fun.

Intermediate 3 – Exercise 36 – Used To: Versus Be Used To, Get Used To

She never _____ out alone, and she certainly didn't _____
in restaurants by herself.

Another month passed quickly, and then another. Before she knew it, Sarah had already been in
Chicago for three months. She was surprised to realized that she

_____ eating out alone and with her new friends.

She _____ the subway and she

_____ independent. Her English was improving and she _____

_____ English most of the time.

Soon it was time for Sarah to return home. She was sad because she had to leave Chicago and
she worried about moving back home. She thought, "I _____ with my

family, but now I _____ alone. I wonder if it will take some time for

me _____ with my parents again?" Sarah felt confident, however,

that she could adjust to any situation after having had this experience. She would always have

her photographs and memories, and she would always be able to say that she

_____ in Chicago, Illinois.