

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

**A** Study this example situation:



Jane is American but she has lived in Britain for three years. When she first drove a car in Britain, she found it very difficult because she had to drive on the left instead of 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 after three years, it's no problem for Jane:  
She **is used to driving** on the left.

**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.**
- Brenda's husband is often away from home. She doesn't mind this. **She is used to him being away.**

**B** 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...**', '**to**' is a *preposition*, not a part of the infinitive (see Unit 59C). So we say:

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

**C** Do not confuse **I am used to doing** (**be/get used to**) and **I used to do**. They are different in structure and meaning.

**I am used to (doing) something** = something 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 for a long time.

**I used to do something** = I did something regularly in the past but no longer do it (see Unit 18). You can use this structure 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.

**EXERCISES**

Read the situations and complete the sentences. Use (be/get) used to as in the example.

- 1 Jane is American. She came to Britain and at first she found driving on the left difficult.  
When she arrived in Britain, she ...wasn't used to driving... on the left, but she soon ...got used to... it. Now she has no problems. She ...is used to driving... on the left.
- 2 Juan is Spanish and came to live in England. In Spain he always had dinner late in the evening, but in England dinner was at 6 o'clock. This was very early for him.  
When Juan first came to England, he ..... dinner so early, but after some time he ..... it. Now he finds it quite normal. He ..... at six o'clock.
- 3 Julia is a nurse. A year ago she started working nights. At first she found it hard.  
At first Julia 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.

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 hard. This is not a problem for you. You have always worked hard.  
FRIEND: You have to work very hard in your job, don't you?  
YOU: Yes, but I don't mind that. I .....
- 4 You normally 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, .....

1.3 Read the situation 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 Jack once went to the Middle East. It was very difficult for him at first because of the heat.  
He wasn't .....
- 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 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. The children soon .....
- 5 Somebody from Britain is thinking of going to live in your country. Warn him/her!  
You would have to .....

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

- 1 Jane 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 Tom 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 every day.
- 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.

## 59.2

2 by standing on a chair.  
 3 by turning a key.  
 4 by borrowing too much money.  
 5 by driving too fast.  
 6 by putting some posters up on the walls.

## 59.3

2 paying  
 3 going  
 4 saying  
 5 going  
 6 using  
 7 travelling / being  
 8 telling  
 9 doing / having

## 59.4

2 I'm looking forward to seeing her.  
 3 I'm not looking forward to going to the dentist.  
 4 She's looking forward to leaving school (next summer).  
 5 I'm looking forward to playing tennis (tomorrow).

## UNIT 60

## 60.1

2 he wasn't used to having dinner so early, but after some time he got used to it. ... He is used to having dinner at six o'clock. (or He is used to eating at six o'clock.)  
 3 She wasn't used to working nights ... to get used to it ... She is used to working nights.

## 60.2

2 No, I'm used to sleeping on the floor.  
 3 I'm used to working hard. / I'm used to hard work.  
 4 I'm not used to going to bed (so late).

## 60.3

2 He wasn't used to the heat / ... to the hot weather / ... to living in a hot climate.  
 3 She had to get used to living.  
 4 The children soon got used to her. / ... to their new teacher.  
 5 (example answers) You would have to get used to the weather / to the food / to speaking a foreign language.

## 60.4

3 drink	7 go
4 eating	8 be
5 having	9 being
6 have	

## UNIT 61

## 61.1

2 doing  
 3 coming / going  
 4 doing / trying  
 5 buying  
 6 hearing  
 7 going  
 8 having  
 9 being  
 10 watching  
 11 inviting / asking

## 61.2

2 in solving  
 3 of living  
 4 of causing  
 5 (from) walking  
 6 for interrupting  
 7 of spending  
 8 from escaping  
 9 on helping  
 10 to playing

## 61.3

2 Tom insisted on driving Ann to the station.  
 3 Jim congratulated me on getting married.  
 4 Mrs Bond thanked Sue for coming to see her.  
 5 I warned Jack against staying at the hotel near the airport.  
 6 Mary apologised to me for not phoning (me) earlier.  
 7 Jane accused me of being selfish.

## UNIT 62

## 62.1

2 It's no use asking Tom.  
 3 There's no point in going out  
 4 it's no good phoning her now  
 5 it's not worth complaining (about what happened)  
 6 I think it's a waste of time reading newspapers.

## 62.2

2 repairing.  
 3 visiting.  
 4 It's worth considering.  
 5 It's worth reading.  
 6 They aren't / They're not worth keeping.

## 62.3

2 There's no point in eating if you're not hungry.  
 3 There's no point in working if you don't need money.  
 4 There's no point in studying if you feel tired.

## 62.4

2 I have difficulty remembering people's names.  
 3 She had no difficulty getting a job.  
 4 Do you have difficulty understanding him?  
 5 You won't have any difficulty getting a ticket for the concert.

## 62.5

2 reading  
 3 writing  
 4 watching  
 5 climbing / going / walking

## 62.6

2 go skiing  
 3 went swimming  
 4 goes riding  
 5 go shopping

## UNIT 63

## 63.1

2 I had to go to the bank to get some money.  
 3 I'm saving money to go to Canada.  
 4 I went into hospital to have an operation.  
 5 I'm wearing two jumpers to keep warm.  
 6 I phoned the police station to report that my car had been stolen.

## 63.2

2 to read  
 3 to walk or to go on foot  
 4 to drink  
 5 to put / to carry  
 6 to discuss / to consider / to talk about  
 7 to buy / to get  
 8 to talk / to speak  
 9 to wear / to put on  
 10 to celebrate  
 11 to help / to assist

## 63.3

2 for	6 to
3 to	7 for
4 to	8 for ... to
5 for	

## 63.4

2 We wore warm clothes so that we wouldn't get cold.  
 3 The man spoke very slowly so that I would understand what he said. or ... so that I could understand...  
 4 I whispered so that nobody else could hear our conversation. or ... would hear our conversation.  
 5 Please arrive early so that we can start the meeting on time.