

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

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

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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

- 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**...
- 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
- 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
- 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,

60.3 Read the situation and complete the sentences using used to.

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

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

- Jane had to get used to ...**driving**... on the left.
- We used to ...**live**... in a small village but now we live in London.
- Tom used to a lot of coffee. Now he prefers tea.
- I feel very full after that meal. I'm not used to so much.
- I wouldn't like to share an office. I'm used to my own office.
- I used to a car but I sold it a few months ago.
- When we were children, we used to swimming every day.
- There used to a cinema here but it was knocked down a few years ago.
- I'm the boss here! I'm not used to told what to do.

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

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