

# 'used to' + infinitive and 'be' or 'get used to' + '-ing'

Do you know the difference between *I used to drive on the left* and *I'm used to driving on the left*?

Look at these examples to see how *used to*, *get used to* and *be used to* are used.

*I **used to** want to be a lawyer but then I realised how hard they work!*

*How's Boston? **Are you used to** the cold weather yet?*

*No matter how many times I fly, I'll **never get used to** take-off and landing!*

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

<https://speakspeak.com/english-grammar-exercises/intermediate/used-to-be-used-to-get-used-to>

## Grammar explanation

*Used to* + infinitive and *be/get used to* + *-ing* look similar but they have very different uses.

### *used to*

We use *used to* + infinitive to talk about a past situation that is no longer true. It tells us that there was a repeated action or state in the past which has now changed.

*She used to be a long-distance runner when she was younger.*

*I didn't use to sleep very well, but then I started doing yoga and it really helps.*

*Did you use to come here as a child?*

### *be used to and get used to*

*Be used to* means 'be familiar with' or 'be accustomed to'.

*She's used to the city now and doesn't get lost any more.*

*He wasn't used to walking so much and his legs hurt after the hike.*

*I'm a teacher so I'm used to speaking in public.*

We use *get used to* to talk about the process of becoming familiar with something.

*I'm finding this new job hard but I'm sure I'll get used to it soon.*

*It took my mother years to get used to living in London after moving from Pakistan.*

*I'm getting used to the noise now. I found it really stressful when I first moved in.*

*Be used to* and *get used to* are followed by a noun, pronoun or the *-ing* form of a verb, and can be used about the past, present or future.