

# Grammar for test U4

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## 1 (be/get) used to

### 1.1 Overview

#### A Use, used to, be used to, get used to

You already know the noun “use” (Verwendungszweck, Gebrauch) and the verb “to use” (benutzen, verwenden, gebrauchen).

The word “use” can have a completely different meaning. In the tables above, you noticed that

- 1 “used to” (Vergangenheit) is followed by the infinitive without to.

*I **used to write** a lot of letters to my sister, but now I write her emails.*

→ We use it to express an action that you did regularly in the past but no longer do.

- 2 “be used to” (daran gewohnt sein) is followed by the gerund (ING-form).

*He **is used to working** for a big company.*

- 3 “get used to” (sich daran gewöhnen) is followed by the gerund (ING-form).

*She **got used to programming** in Java after taking a course last year.*

#### B Be careful not to confuse the passive (chapter 2) with the (be/get) used to.

Take a good look at the following two sentences:

- 1 *Why **is silicon used to** make computer chips?* (is used to = wird gebraucht um zu...)
- 2 *Makers of computer chips **are used to** manufacturing their chips with silicon.* (are used to = sind es gewohnt)

The first sentence is a passive sentence asking why silicon **is** (commonly) **used** (in order) **to** make computer chips. The second sentence on the other hand is an active sentence formed with “**be used to**” and followed by the gerund.

#### C Do not use two auxiliary verbs or modal auxiliary verbs in one sentence:

~~Do you can dance?~~ → **Can** you dance? // ~~Do you would like to leave?~~ → **Would** you like to leave?

## 1.2 Exercises

**A Write four sentences about what you used to do when you were 10 years old, but you no longer do.**

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

**B Write four sentences about what you have got used to doing since you started your apprenticeship.**

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

**C Passive or (be/get)used to? Make a cross if the following sentences are passive (P) or gerund (G).**

	P	G
The creators of the malware you mentioned were used to making spyware on a regular basis - it was their source of income.		
We changed the password that was used to enter the site.		
These are the security measures which were used to secure our network.		
Companies must get used to educating employees about safe computing practices and enforce policies to safeguard the network.		
Keeping antivirus software up to date is critically important for all platforms, even if users of some operating systems such as Macintosh and Linux, aren't used to being as widely targeted by virus threats as Windows users are.		
Malware, short for malicious software, is any software which is used to disrupt computer or mobile operations, gather sensitive information, gain access to private computer systems, or display unwanted advertising.		
When a new subscriber decides to sign up for informative emails from your company, they get used to hearing from you on a regular basis.		
The malware you mentioned was used to retrieve communications and location data from infected devices.		

**D Some of the following sentences contain mistakes. Correct them by changing, omitting or replacing three words per sentence at most. Then indicate which of these sentences are passive, active and/or gerund.**

- 1 If you work for this company, you'll have to get used to deal with very impertinent customers.
- 2 This USB stick was used to helping us transfer files when our network was down.
- 3 Drones weren't used to be so good but now they are excellent.
- 4 Many young people are used to staying up all night long using their social media profiles to talk to their friends, read up on interesting trivia and learn more about what their friends and acquaintances are doing.
- 5 Should we all get used to going on holidays without a smartphone?
- 6 The students don't care about their online reputation, but they weren't used to.
- 7 The police are investigating what IP address and which PC was used to performing the attack on our network at school.
- 8 Restaurants are getting used to see their customers with laptops occupy seats for several hours without consuming or saying much, hunched over keyboards, headphones plugged in.

**E Make your own exercise with sentences that contain mistakes just like in the above exercise and share it with a classmate electronically. Correct your sentences together using Zoom, Skype or MS Teams for example.**

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**F Put the following verbs into the correct form**

- 1 We used to (live) \_\_\_\_\_ in a small village but now we live in Bern.
- 2 I feel very full after that meal. I'm not used to (eat) \_\_\_\_\_ so much.
- 3 I used to (have) \_\_\_\_\_ a car but I sold it a few months ago.
- 4 He didn't use to (smoke) \_\_\_\_\_ when he was at university.
- 5 She's used to (live) \_\_\_\_\_ alone.
- 6 I wouldn't like to share an office. I'm used to (have) \_\_\_\_\_ my own.
- 7 Can you ever get used to (work) \_\_\_\_\_ with a colleague who always talks to you when you're concentrating?
- 8 When we were kids we used to (go) \_\_\_\_\_ swimming everyday in summer.
- 9 When you lived in London, did you use to (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to a lot of concerts?
- 10 James used to (drink) \_\_\_\_\_ way too much coffee, so he started drinking tea.
- 11 There used to (be) \_\_\_\_\_ a cinema here but they knocked it down to build a park.
- 12 He never used to (cook) \_\_\_\_\_ but he moved into his own apartment and now he has to.
- 13 The apprentices are finally getting used to (program) \_\_\_\_\_ in C++.
- 14 If you want to be a support technician you will have to get used to (work) \_\_\_\_\_ with people as well as (listen) \_\_\_\_\_ and (help) \_\_\_\_\_ them with their problems.
- 15 She used to (play) \_\_\_\_\_ professional tennis when she was younger.

**G Put the following information into question forms. Make any necessary changes.**

**1** replacing graphics adapters (be used to / 2nd person plural, past simple)

---

**2** publish websites (used to / 2nd person singular, past simple)

---

**3** talk to clients (get used to / 3rd person singular, present continuous)

---

**4** work abroad (be used to / 2nd person plural, present simple)

---

**5** create a customer feedback form (get used to / 3rd person plural, past continuous)

---

**6** play in a band (used to / 3rd person singular, past simple)

---

**7** live on your own (be used to / 2nd person singular, present simple)

---

**8** work in a team (get used to / 2nd person singular, present continuous)

---

**9** have long hair as a kid (used to / 3rd person plural, past simple)

---

**10** listen to different types of music (be used to / 2nd person singular, present simple)

---

**11** could you.... live with less (get used to / 1st person plural, present simple)

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## 2 Repetition: Reported speech

### 2.1 Overview

When we want to repeat (say or report) what another person said or wrote, we can say it in two ways, direct or reported (indirect) speech.

Picture Joe and Sandra talking on Monday after work. Later, on the following Friday, Sandra tells her friend Deborah what Joe said to her:

**A** Sandra can tell Deborah the exact words of what Joe said to her:

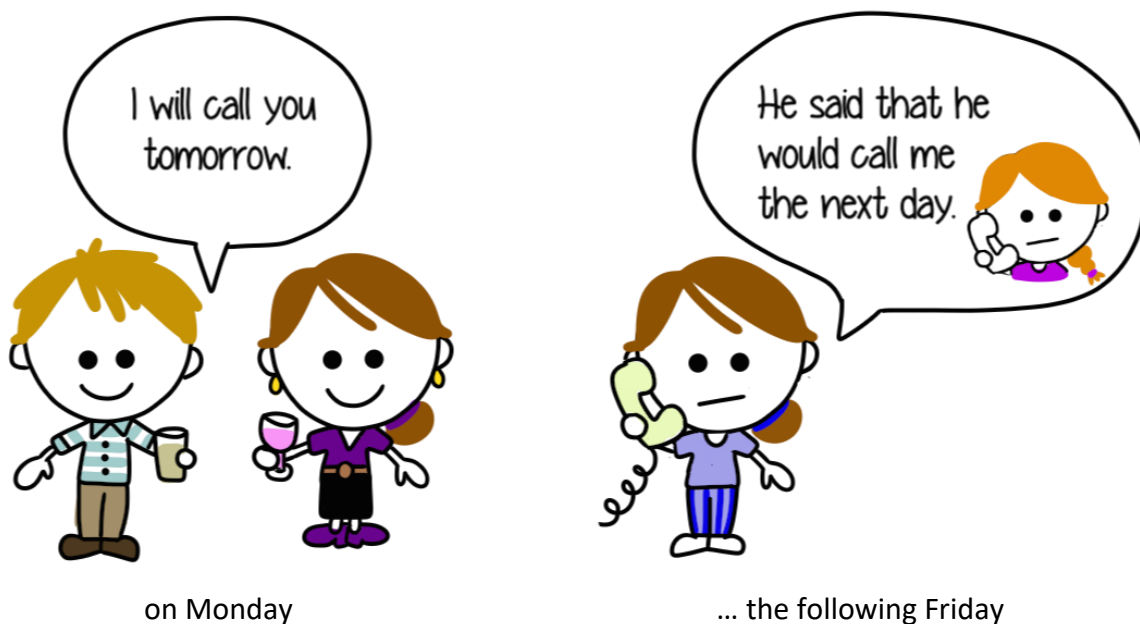
*Joe said „I will call you tomorrow.”*

→ This kind of repeating somebody else’s exact words is called **direct speech**.

**B** Sandra can also tell Deborah what Joe said to her in a different, much more common way, by changing the exact words:

*Joe said that he would call me the next day.*

→ This way of repeating somebody else’s words in an indirect way is called **reported speech**.



As you notice in the examples above, there are some **changes to the tense and the time expression** with reported speech. The table on the following page shows how each tense and the most commonly used time expressions change.

The changes effected in the „reported speech” above sentence are:

- 1 the quotation marks („...”) are removed
- 2 the conjunction ‘that’ is used between the main clause and the subordinate (dependent) clause, the part of a sentence that cannot stand alone without the main clause to make sense.
- 3 the personal pronoun ‘you’ is changed to ‘me’
- 4 the auxiliary verb ‘will’ is changed into ‘would’
- 5 the time indication ‘tomorrow’ is changed into ‘the next day’

## 2.2 Rules

### A These tenses change in reported speech. You can choose if you want to use "that" or not.

Direct speech	Reported speech	Examples
Present simple*	Present simple*	„The PC <b>is</b> fast.“ She said (that) the PC <b>is</b> fast.
Present simple	Past simple	„I <b>want</b> to go home.“ She said (that) she <b>wanted</b> to go home.
Present continuous	Past continuous	„I <b>'m reading</b> .“ She said (that) she <b>was reading</b> .
Past continuous	Past perfect continuous	"We <b>were living</b> in Paris", they told me. They told me (that) they <b>had been living</b> in Paris.
Past simple	Past perfect	„I <b>met</b> my colleague Pete last night.“ She said (that) she <b>had met</b> her colleague Pete the night before.
Present perfect	Past perfect	„I <b>have</b> just <b>finished</b> cleaning my desk.“ She said (that) she <b>had</b> just <b>finished</b> cleaning her desk.
be going to future	put "be" in the past simple form	„I <b>am going to help</b> you.“ She said (that) she <b>was going to help</b> me.

\*Normally, the tense in reported speech is one tense back in time from the tense in direct speech. However, we don't need to change the present simple tense into the past simple tense if the information in direct speech is still true such as in general facts.

### B These modal verbs change in reported speech.

Direct speech	Reported speech	Examples
Can / can't	Could / couldn't	„I <b>can</b> meet you next Monday.“ She said (that) she <b>could</b> meet me the following Monday. „Sorry, I <b>can't</b> talk now. I'm at work.“ She said (that) she <b>couldn't</b> talk at the moment because she was at work.
Will / won't	Would / wouldn't	„I <b>will</b> pick him up at the airport.“ She said (that) she <b>would</b> pick him up at the airport. „I <b>won't</b> tell anybody your secret.“ She said (that) she <b>wouldn't</b> tell anybody my secret.

### C These modal verbs do not change in reported speech.

Modal verb	Example direct speech	Example reported speech
<b>might</b>	„I might be late.“	She said (that) she might be late.
<b>could</b>	„I could program when I was sixteen.“	She said (that) she could program when she was sixteen.
<b>would</b>	„I would help, but...“	She said (that) she would help but...
<b>should</b>	„I should call my boss.“	She said (that) she should call her boss.
<b>ought to</b>	„I ought to try it some time.“	She said (that) she ought to try it some time.



**D Time expressions, place and demonstratives change if the location and/or the period of time of the reported statement is different from that of the direct speech.**

Direct Speech	Reported Speech
<b>Time expressions</b>	
today	that day / Tuesday / the 25th of June
now	then / at that time
yesterday	the day before / Wednesday / the 5th of December
... days ago	... days before
last week	the week before / the previous week
next year	the following year
tomorrow	the next day / the following day / today
<b>Place</b>	
here	there
<b>Demonstratives</b>	
this	that
these	those

**E Yes / No questions: This type of question is reported by using 'if / whether'.**

Examples direct speech	Examples reported speech
„Do you speak English?“	He asked me if I spoke English.
„Are you British or American?“	He asked me whether I was British or American.
„Is it raining?“	She asked if it was raining.
„Have you got a computer?“	He wanted to know whether I had a computer.
„Can you type?“	She asked if I could type.
„Did you come by train?“	He enquired whether I had come by train.
„Have you been to Bristol before?“	She asked if I had been to Bristol before.

**F Question words: This type of question is reported by using the question word.**

Examples direct speech	Examples reported speech
„What is your name?“	He asked (me) what my name was.
„How old is your mother?“	She asked (me) how old my mother was.
„Where do you live?“	He asked (me) where I lived.
„What time does the train arrive?“	She asked what time the train arrived.
„When can we have dinner?“	She asked when they could have dinner.
„Why are you so late?“	Peter asked John why he was so late.

**G Suggestions, requests, commands, promises, advice**

To change such sentences into indirect speech, the words „ordered“, „requested“, „advised“, „suggested“ or „not to do“ are added to the reporting verb.

Examples direct speech	Examples reported speech
„Please help me.“	He requested (me) to help him.
„You should work hard for the exam.“	She suggested working hard for the exam.
„Do not waste time.“	The teacher advised the students not to waste time.
„Do not smoke.“	The doctor advised me not to smoke.

**H Text example: Read the example of a newspaper article in both direct and reported (indirect) speech and analyse the differences between them. In order to illustrate the differences, the following format is used:**

➔ **words necessary when reporting something to someone / ~~omitted tense and time expression~~ / tense change and change of time expression**

**Direct speech: (talking or writing directly to someone)**

Lucian Constantin from networkworld.com reported the following: “Security researchers have been warning for years that poor security for internet of things devices could have serious consequences. Most experts are wondering why many website operators don’t see the danger in this issue. It has always been clear that these warnings will one day come true, with botnets made up of compromised IoT devices capable of launching distributed denial-of-service attacks of unprecedented scale.

Octave Klabba, the founder and CTO of French hosting firm OVH, sounded the alarm on Twitter last week when his company was hit with two concurrent DDoS attacks whose combined bandwidth reached almost 1 terabit per second. One of the two attacks peaked at 799Gbps alone, making it the largest ever reported.

According to Klabba, the attack targeted Minecraft servers hosted on OVH's network, and the source of the junk traffic was a botnet made up of 145,607 hacked digital video recorders and IP cameras. With the ability to generate traffic of 1Mbps to 30Mbps from every single Internet Protocol (IP) address, this botnet is able to launch DDoS attacks that exceed 1.5Tbps, Klabba warned.”

**Reported speech: (telling someone what someone else said or wrote)**

Lucian Constantin from networkworld.com reported the following: ~~“that~~ security researchers ~~have been~~ had been warning for years that poor security for internet of things devices could have serious consequences. ~~And that~~ most experts ~~are wondering~~ were wondering why many website operators ~~don’t see~~ didn’t see / don’t see the danger in this issue. ~~He also stated that it has always been~~ had always been clear that these warnings ~~will~~ would one day come true, with botnets made up of compromised IoT devices capable of launching distributed denial-of-service attacks of unprecedented scale.

**Furthermore, Lucian Constantin said that** Octave Klabba, the founder and CTO of French hosting firm OVH, ~~sounded~~ had sounded the alarm on Twitter ~~last week~~ the week before when his company ~~was~~ had been hit with two concurrent DDoS attacks whose combined bandwidth ~~reached~~ had reached almost 1 terabit per second. **He went on explaining that** one of the two attacks ~~peaked~~ had peaked at 799Gbps alone, making it the largest ever reported.

According to Klabba, the attack ~~targeted~~ had targeted Minecraft servers hosted on OVH's network, and the source of the junk traffic ~~was~~ had been a botnet made up of 145,607 hacked digital video recorders and IP cameras.

With the ability to generate traffic of 1Mbps to 30Mbps from every single Internet Protocol (IP) address, this botnet ~~is~~ was able to launch DDoS attacks that ~~exceed~~ exceeded 1.5Tbps, Klabba warned.”

## 2.3 Exercises

**A A train stopped in a tunnel and it didn't move for a long time. Report what the people said, using the correct reported speech forms of the words in brackets.**

- 1 The driver said that \_\_\_\_\_ sorry for the delay.  
("I'm sorry")
- 2 The driver said that \_\_\_\_\_ the cause of the problem. ("I don't know")
- 3 The woman next to me said \_\_\_\_\_ it. ("I can't believe")
- 4 I said that \_\_\_\_\_. ("I'm going to complain")
- 5 The man opposite me said \_\_\_\_\_ late for a meeting. ("I'll be")
- 6 Some children said \_\_\_\_\_ to get out. ("We want")
- 7 Another passenger said that \_\_\_\_\_ to get angry. ("I'm beginning")
- 8 Someone said \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 minutes. ("The train hasn't moved")
- 9 Another passenger said that \_\_\_\_\_ on her last journey. ("The same thing happened")

**B Some students were talking about each other in the college café. Report what they said using 'told' and the correct reported speech verb forms. Use "that" in each sentence.**

- 1 Anne: "I'm not going out with Ian anymore." – I: "I'm surprised to hear that."  
Anne \_\_\_\_\_ with Ian anymore.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ surprised to hear that.
- 2 Wendy: "Neil won't do well in the exams." – Mary: "Neil is going to start studying hard."  
Wendy \_\_\_\_\_ well in the exams.  
Mary \_\_\_\_\_ studying hard.
- 3 George: "Bruce can't get a girlfriend." – Elaine: "Bruce asked me out."  
George \_\_\_\_\_ a girlfriend.  
Elaine \_\_\_\_\_ her out.
- 4 Mike: "Tom applied for a job at Google in Zurich." – Ann: "Tom will never get it!"  
Mike \_\_\_\_\_ a job at Google in Zurich.  
Ann \_\_\_\_\_ it.

**C Report what happened in this job interview, using question words (what, where, when, etc.) and the correct reported speech verb forms.**

Things the interviewer asked me:	Things I told the interviewer:
When can you start work? What are your ambitions? How much do you earn in your present job?	I saw the advert in the local paper. I won't be able to start until September because I'm going on holiday. I'm going to get back from my holiday on 2 September.

- 1 He asked me \_\_\_\_\_ work.
- 2 He asked me \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 He asked me \_\_\_\_\_ in my present job.
- 4 I told him \_\_\_\_\_ the advert.
- 5 I told him \_\_\_\_\_ start until September.
- 6 I told him \_\_\_\_\_ from my holiday.

**D Sarah works at a tourist office. She is reporting questions that tourists asked her at work. Complete what she says, using if / whether or a question word and the correct reported speech verb forms.**

**questions people asked me today:**

*Can you find a hotel for me? Someone asked me if / whether I could find a hotel for him.*

- 1 What time does the museum open?      Someone asked me \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 Will the shops be open on Sunday?      Someone asked me \_\_\_\_\_ open on Sunday.
- 3 How much does a travel card cost?      Someone asked me \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Has the festival started?      Someone asked me \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Where can I find a good restaurant?      Someone asked me \_\_\_\_\_ a good restaurant.

**E Report what Sally told you last Wednesday. Change the time and use the correct reported speech verb forms.**

Sally told me last Wednesday that ...

- 1 "I've lost my credit card this morning!" ... she had
- 2 "I'm going to call you tomorrow." ... she
- 3 "I passed my driving test last week." ... she
- 4 "I'll buy the croissants next Monday." ... she

**F Put the sentences in reported speech.**

- 1 Peter: "I won't tell anybody!"

Peter promised \_\_\_\_\_.

- 2 Susan: "I'll cook dinner for you."

Susan offered \_\_\_\_\_.

- 3 I: "You look nice!"

I told her \_\_\_\_\_.

- 4 Peter asked Sarah: "Will you marry me?"

Peter asked Sarah \_\_\_\_\_.

- 5 The boss mentions: "Tom has forgotten to send the parcel."

The boss mentioned that Tom \_\_\_\_\_ the parcel.

- 6 Bill: "I don't like this party. I want to go home now."

Peter said that Bill \_\_\_\_\_ the party and that he \_\_\_\_\_ right away."

- 7 Mrs. Miller: "We'll continue to work on that tomorrow."

Mrs. Miller said that we \_\_\_\_\_ to work on that \_\_\_\_\_.

- 8 Sam: "What time is the meeting tomorrow?"

Sam wanted to know \_\_\_\_\_.

- 9 James: "Is there a new version out yet?"

James wondered \_\_\_\_\_ a new version out yet.

**G Report what Susan said to Alex two days ago.**

Susan: "I was watching some program on TV the other day and was surprised to find out that many people never secure their wireless networks. Some of the people interviewed didn't know about it, others just ignored the issue. If you have a wireless network set up at home, make sure you don't leave it unsecured. If you have an unsecured wireless network, even people with basic computer knowledge will be able to connect to your network, use your connection for downloading illegal material and easily see every single thing you do on the Internet."

The day before yesterday, Susan told Alex that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2.4 Key to the exercises

**A** A train stopped in a tunnel and it didn't move for a long time. Report what the people said, using the correct reported speech forms of the words in brackets.

- 1 he was
- 2 he didn't know
- 3 (that) she couldn't believe
- 4 I was going to complain
- 5 he would be
- 6 (that) they wanted
- 7 he/she was beginning
- 8 (that) the train hadn't moved
- 9 the same thing had happened

**B** Some students were talking about each other in the college café. Report what they said using 'told' and the correct reported speech verb forms. Use "that" in each sentence.

- 1 Anne told me that she wasn't going out ... / I told Anne that I was ...
- 2 Wendy told Mary that Neil wouldn't do ... / Mary told Wendy that Neil was going to start ...
- 3 George told Elaine that Bruce couldn't get ... / Elaine told George that Bruce had asked ...
- 4 Mike told Ann that Tom had applied for ... / Ann told Mike that Tom would never get ...

**C** Report what happened in this job interview, using question words (what, where, when, etc.) and the correct reported speech verb forms.

- 1 when I could start
- 2 what my ambitions were
- 3 how much I earn
- 4 where I had seen
- 5 why I wouldn't be able to
- 6 when I was going to get back

**D Sarah works at a tourist office. She is reporting questions that tourists asked her at work. Complete what she says, using if / whether or a question word and the correct reported speech verb forms.**

- 1 **what time the museum opened**
- 2 **if / whether the shops would be**
- 3 **how much a travel card cost**
- 4 **if / whether the festival had started**
- 5 **where he/she could find**

**E Report what Sally told you last Wednesday. Change the time and use the correct reported speech verb forms.**

- 1 **lost her credit card that morning.**
- 2 **was going to call me the next day.**
- 3 **she had passed her driving test the week before.**
- 4 **she would buy the croissants the following Monday.**

**F Put the sentences in reported speech.**

- 1 **Peter promised not to tell anybody. / Peter promised (that) he would not tell anybody.**
- 2 **Susan offered to cook dinner for me. / Susan offered (that) she would cook dinner for me.**
- 3 **I told her she looked nice.**
- 4 **Peter asked Sarah if she would marry him. (Peter asked Sarah to marry him)**
- 5 **The boss mentioned that Tom had forgotten to send the parcel.**
- 6 **Peter said that Bill didn't like the party and he wanted to go home right away."**
- 7 **Mrs. Miller said that we would continue to work on that the next day.**
- 8 **Sam wanted to know what time the meeting was the next day.**
- 9 **James wondered whether / if there was a new version out yet.**

**G Report what Susan said to Alex two days ago.**

The day before yesterday, Susan told Alex that

**she had been watching** some program on TV the other day and **had been** surprised to find out that many people never **secure (secured)** their wireless networks. **She mentioned that** some of the people interviewed **had not known (did not know)** about it, others **had just ignored** the issue. **She stressed that** if you **had** a wireless network set up at home, make sure **not to** leave it unsecured. **Furthermore she said that** if you **had** an unsecured wireless network, even people with basic computer knowledge **would** be able to connect to your network, use your connection for downloading illegal material and easily see every single thing you do on the Internet.