

# 11

## Chapter Eleven

- *Used to*
- *Be used to*
- *Get used to*

**Used to** refers to actions and situations in the past which no longer happen or are no longer true. **It always refers to the past:**

- Ramesh used to travel a lot in his job but now, he doesn't.
- He **used to** play football for the local team, but he is too old now.

**We also use it for something that was true but no longer is.**

- There used to be a cinema in the town but now there isn't.
- That white house over there **used to** belong to my family.  
(It belonged to my family in the past, but not anymore.)
- She used to have really long hair but she's had it all cut off.

**Warning:** In statements, the form **used to** does not change. We do not use the verb **be** before it. It always refers to past time:

- We **used to** go to the seaside every summer when I was a kid.

Not: ~~We are used to go ...~~ or ~~We use to go ...~~ or ~~We were used to go ...~~

**Used to vs. Simple past-**

Simple past tense also can be used to describe past habits & facts. However for emphasizing “used to” is preferred in positive sentence. Yet for question and negative use simple past tense.

Examples-

- We used to play the guitar
- Did you play the guitar when you were young?
- You did not play the guitar when you were young.

**Passive voice-** The guitar used to be played by us

**Used to or would?-** We can use *used to* or *would* to talk about people's habits in the past. When we use them both together, *used to* most commonly comes first, as it sets the scene for the actions being reported:

- When we were kids, we **used to** invent amazing games. We **would** imagine we were the government and we **would** make crazy laws that everyone had to obey.

Used to, but not would, can describe a state or situation which is no longer true:

- We **used to** live in Manchester. ( Not: ~~We would live in Manchester.~~)
- 'The Townhouse' **used to** be a Greek restaurant. It's Italian now.  
Not: ~~'The Townhouse' would be a Greek restaurant ...~~

## Uses of- *be used to*

*Be used to* means 'be accustomed to'. It is an expression, not a tense. This expression is for talking about something that is **familiar** to us or **easy** for us. It can refer to the past, present or future.

For example- I **am used to** driving on the left.

It means that it is not a problem for me to drive on the left of the road.

If I say "I am used to Thailand", it is like saying "I am accustomed to Thailand."

- I work in a hospital, so I **am used to** long hours.
- He was a salesman, so he **was used to** travelling extensively

Note that if the object involves a verb, we use the **-ing** form (gerund):

- He is used to *working* late.
- We aren't used to *taking* the bus.

Why do we use **-ing** for a verb after **be used to**? Because we always use **-ing** for a verb after a preposition - and the **to** is a preposition.

**Warning** -Do not confuse **be used to** with **used to do**. They have different meanings and use. Understand it carefully.

## *get used to*

We can also say get used to or (more formally) become used to:

e.g.-University is very different from school, but don't worry. You'll soon **get used to** it. (or, more formally, You'll soon become used to it.)

We use '**to get used to doing**' to talk about the process of something becoming normal for us. We can also use this in any tense:

- She has started working nights and is still getting used to sleeping during the day.
- I have always lived in the villages but now I'm beginning to get used to living in the city.
- Don't worry if your new job is hard at first. You'll get used to it.
- I **got used to** living in the USA in spite of the cold weather.

*Get used to* and *be used to* are followed by either a noun or a gerund.

Noun	Gerund
I <i>got used to</i> <u>the noise</u>	I <i>got used to</i> <u>waking</u> up early
I'm <i>used to</i> <u>the cold weather</u>	I'm <i>used to</i> <u>working</u> late at night