


Be used to, get used to

1

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.

2

Be careful !!!

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

I'm used to doing something: something isn't strange or new to me.

Example: I'm used to the weather in this country.

I'm 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. You can use this structure only in the past, not for the present.

Example: I used to drive to work everyday, but these days I usually go by bike.

We used to live in a small village, but now we live in London.

3

Exercises:

1) Read the situations and complete the sentences. Use be/get used to:

a) Juan is Spanish and came to live in England. In Spain he always had dinner late in the evening, but in England dinner is at six 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 normal. He _____ at six o'clock.

b) 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.

2) Complete with get used to doing, be used to doing or used to do:

a) My friend have just moved into a flat on a busy street. They'll have to _____ to the noise.

b) Sandra went to Great Britain last year. It was so hard for her to drive her car. She _____ on the left.

c) I rarely eat ice cream now, but I _____ it when I was a child.

d) Sue moved from a big house to a smaller one. She had to _____ in a much smaller house.

e) Dennis gave up smoking two years ago. He _____ 40 cigarettes a day.