

Grammar Bank

'Used to do' & 'Used to doing'

Used to

The expression 'used to' expresses a past habit, activity or situation which does not exist now. 'Used to' is followed by an infinitive. For example:

- I **used to** smoke. (I don't smoke now.)
- I **used to** live in Ottawa. (I don't live there now.)
- I **used to** be married. (I am divorced now.)

The expression 'used to' is only used in the Past Simple tense. For example:

- I **used to** smoke. (*Solía fumar.*)
- I **usually** smoke. (*Suelo fumar.*)

To be used to

The expression to 'be used to' means to 'be accustomed to' (*estar acostumbrado a*) something. This expression can be followed by an object an action. For example:

- I **am used to** long meetings. (The object is 'long meetings'.)
- I **am used to** getting up early. (The action is 'getting up' [a verb -ing].)

It can also be used in different verb tenses. For example:

Past	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I was used to long meetings, but now I get tired. • I was used to getting up early, but now it is more difficult for me.
Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am used to long meetings, so I don't mind attending them. • I am used to getting up early, so I don't mind it.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will be used to long meetings after this conference! • I will be used to getting up early after a few mornings.

To get used to

The expression to 'get used to' means to 'become accustomed to' something. This expression can be followed by an object or an action. For example:

- I **am getting used to** long meetings. (The object is 'long meetings'.)
- I **am getting used to** getting up early. (The action is 'getting up' [verb -ing].)

It can also be used in different verb tenses. For example:

Past	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I got used to long meetings because I was the chairperson. • I got used to getting up early because I had to do it so often.
Present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little by little, I am getting used to long meetings, although I would prefer not to attend them. • I am getting used to getting up early, but it isn't easy.
Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I suppose I will get used to long meetings after these last ones! • I will get used to getting up early after a few mornings.