

UNIT 24

Used to (I used to do)

a Study this example situation:

This is Dennis. He gave up smoking two years ago. He no longer smokes.

But he **used to smoke**. He **used to smoke** 40 cigarettes a day.

He used to smoke means that he smoked regularly for some time in the past, but he doesn't smoke now:

We use **used to** with the *base form* (**used to do / used to smoke**, etc.) to say that something happened regularly in the past but no longer happens:

- I **used to play** tennis a lot, but now I'm too lazy.
- "Do you go to the movies very often?" "Not now, but I **used to**."
- Sue **used to travel** a lot. These days she doesn't go away very often.

We also use **used to** for past situations (that no longer exist):

- We **used to live** in a small village, but now we live in Milan.
- This building is now a furniture store. It **used to be** a movie theater.
- Do you see that hill over there? There **used to be** a castle on that hill.
- I've started drinking tea lately. I never **used to like** it before.
- Ann **used to have** long hair, but she cut it some time ago.

b **Used to** + base form is always past. There is no present. You cannot say "I use to do." For the present, use the simple present (**I do**). Compare the present and past:

<i>past</i>	he used to smoke	we used to live	there used to be
<i>present</i>	he smokes	we live	there is

c The normal question form is **did ... use to ... ?**:

- **Did you use to eat** a lot of candy when you were a child?

The negative form is **didn't use to ...** (*or never used to*)

- Jim **didn't use to go** out very often until he met Jill. (*or never used to go out*)

d Be careful not to confuse **I used to do** and **I am used to doing** (see Unit 59). The structures and meanings are different:

- I **used to live** alone. (= I lived alone but I no longer live alone.)
- I **am used to living** alone. (= I live alone and don't find it strange or new because I've been living alone for some time.)

UNIT 24 Exercises

24.1 Complete each sentence with **used to** . . .

Example: Dennis doesn't smoke anymore, but he *used to smoke* 40 cigarettes a day.

1. The baby doesn't cry so much now, but she every night.
2. She my best friend, but we aren't friends anymore.
3. We live in Barcelona now, but we in Madrid.
4. Now there's only one cafe in the village, but there three.
5. When I was a child I ice cream, but I don't like it now.
6. Now Tom has a car. He a motorcycle.

24.2 Write some sentences about a man who changed his lifestyle. Ron stopped doing some things and started doing other things:

He stopped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> { studying hard { going to bed early { running three miles every morning 	He started	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> { smoking { staying out late { spending a lot of money
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Make sentences like these:

Examples: *He used to study hard.*
He never used to smoke, or He didn't use to smoke.

1.
2.
3.
4.

24.3 Write sentences about the present. Remember there is no present tense of **used to**.

Examples: Ron used to study hard, but now *he doesn't study very hard.*
 Ron didn't use to smoke, but now *he smokes.*

1. Mark used to play tennis a lot, but now
2. Mary never used to drink coffee, but now
3. Jill didn't use to be fat, but now
4. Jack didn't use to go out much, but now

24.4 Ask some questions. Mr. Park is an old man now. You are asking someone what he used to do when he was younger.

Example: I know he doesn't smoke now, but *did he use to smoke* ?

1. I know he doesn't play the piano now, but ..?
2. I know he isn't very rich now, but ..?
3. I know he doesn't go out very often these days, but ..?
4. I know he doesn't dance these days, but ..?
5. I know he doesn't have many friends now, but ..?

UNIT 59

Be/get used to something (I'm used to ...)

a 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.

After a lot of practice, driving on the left became less strange:

- She **got used to driving** on the left.

Now after three years, driving on the left is no problem for her:

- She **is used to driving** on the left.

I'm used to something = it is not new or strange for me:

- Frank lives alone. He doesn't mind this because he has lived alone for 15 years. So he **is used to it**. He **is used to living** alone.
- My new shoes felt a bit strange at first because I **wasn't used to them**.
- Our new apartment is on a very busy street. I suppose we'll **get used to the noise**, but at the moment we find it very annoying.
- Fred has a new job. He has to get up much earlier – at 6:30. He finds this difficult right now because he **isn't used to getting** up so early.

b Notice that we say "She **is used to driving** on the left." (*not* she is used to drive). **To in be/get used to** is a *preposition*, not a part of the infinitive (see also Unit 56e). So we say:

- Frank is **used to living** alone. (*not* is used to live)
- Jane had to get **used to driving** on the left. (*not* get used to drive)

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

I am used to (doing) something = something isn't strange for me:

- I **am used to the weather** in this country.
- I **am used to driving** on the left because I've lived in Britain a long time.

I used to do something means only that I did something regularly in the *past* (see Unit 24). You can't use this structure for the *present*. The structure is "**I used to do**" (*not* I am used to do):

- Nowadays I usually stay in bed until late. But when I had a job, I **used to get** up early.

UNIT 59 Exercises

59.1 Read these situations and write three sentences with **used to**, as in the example.

Example: Jane is American. She went to Britain and found driving on the left difficult.

- At first she *wasn't used to driving on the left*.
 - But soon she *got used to driving on the left*.
 - Now she has no problems. She *is used to driving on the left*.
- Juan came to the United States from Spain. In Spain he always had dinner late in the evening. But in the United States dinner was at 6:00. Juan found this strange at first.
 - At first he wasn't
 - But after some time he got
 - Now he finds it normal. He
 - Diana is a nurse. She started working nights two years ago. At first she found it strange and didn't like it.
 - At first she
 - But after a while
 - Now she doesn't mind it at all.

59.2 Read these situations and write a sentence with **be/get used to**.

Example: Frank lives alone. He doesn't mind this. He has always lived alone.

(he / used / live / alone) *He is used to living alone.*

- Ron sleeps on the floor. He doesn't mind this. He has always slept on the floor.
(he / used / sleep / on the floor) He
- Sue moved from a big house to a much smaller one. What did she have to get used to?
(she had / used / live / in a smaller house) She had
- Jack once went to the Middle East. It was too hot for him.
(he / not / used / the heat)
- Bill doesn't have any money. He doesn't find this unusual because he has never had any money.
(he / used / have / no money)
- Amy is going to live in your country. What will she have to get used to? (Write your own answer!) She'll have to

59.3 Put the verb into the correct form, **-ing** or **infinitive** (I am used to **doing** or I used to **do**). If necessary, study Unit 24 first.

Examples: Jane had to get used to *driving* on the left. (drive)

Bill used to in good shape. Now he's in terrible shape. (be)

- When I was a child, I used to swimming every day. (go)
- It took me a long time to get used to contact lenses. (wear)
- There used to a cafe on this corner, but it was torn down. (be)
- I'm the boss. I'm not used to told what to do. (be)
- You'll have to get used to less if you want to lose weight. (eat)
- I used to Ann, but now she gets on my nerves. (like)
- Ron got tired very quickly. He wasn't used to so fast. (run)
- Tom used to to a lot of parties when he was a student. (go)