

NAME

DATE



USED TO, GET USED TO, BE USED TO AND WOULD EXPLAINED WITH AN EXERCISE

used to / didn't use to + infinitive

- I **used to sleep** for eight hours every night, but now I only sleep for six.
- I hardly recognized Jim. He **didn't use to have** a beard.
- When I lived in France as a child, we **used to have** croissants for breakfast. We **would buy** them every morning from the local baker.

Use:

- We use **used to / didn't use to + infinitive** to talk about past habits or repeated actions or situations / states which have changed.
- **used to** doesn't exist in the present tense. For present habits, use **usually + the present simple**, e.g. I usually walk to work. NOT I use to walk to work.

Would

- We can also use **would** (instead of used to) to refer to repeated actions in the past with action verbs (e.g. run, listen, study, cook,). However, we can only use **used to**, not **would**, for non-action verbs (e.g. be, need, know, like, etc.). Brad **didn't use to be** so thin. NOT Brad **wouldn't be** so thin.
- With **would**, you must use a past time expression, or it must be already clear that you are talking about the past.
- We can use the **past simple**, often with an adverb of frequency, in the same way as **used to** and **would** to talk about repeated past actions, e.g. I often got up / **used to get up** / **would get up** early when I lived in Africa, to watch the sun rise.

be used to / get used to + gerund

1 I'm **used to sleeping** with the curtains open. I've never slept with them closed.

Carlos has just moved to London. He **isn't used to driving** on the left.

2 A I can't **get used to working** at night. I feel tired all the time.

B Don't worry, you'll soon **get used to it**.

- Use **be used to + gerund** to talk about things you are accustomed to doing, or a new situation which is now familiar or less strange.
- Use **get used to + gerund** to talk about a new situation which is becoming familiar or less strange.

So what's the difference?

The difference between **be used to** and **get used to** is exactly the same as the difference between **be** and **get + adjective**, e.g. It's dark and It's getting dark.