



A: How do you feel about your new job? Are you getting used to the new routine?

B: Getting up so early is still a bit difficult. I usually get up at midday!

A: Really?

B: Yes, because I used to work in a bar and we would work until after midnight every night.

A: Did you prefer working in the evenings, then?

B: No, not at all. I'm used to finishing at midday now and I'm slowly getting used to waking up at four!

Presentation

usually + present simple

Use *usually* + present simple to talk about habits or routine actions: *I usually get up at midnight.*

used to and would + infinitive

Use *used to* / *didn't use to* to talk about a repeated past action, habit or situation: *I used to work in a bar.*

Use *would* + infinitive to talk about a repeated action or habit in the past. (We normally say when it happened.)
We would work until after midnight every night.

be used to

Use *be used to* to explain that someone is familiar with a situation or a routine: *I'm used to finishing at midday.*

get used to

Use *get used to* in the present continuous to explain that someone is in the process of becoming familiar with a situation: *I'm getting used to waking up at four!*

Use the past simple to show that the process is complete: *I quickly got used to waking up at four.*

TIP

Use *be/get used to* to talk about the past, present or future.

past: *I was / got used to getting up early.*

present: *I'm / I'm getting used to working in the morning.*

future: *I'll be / get used to getting up at four.*

Exercises

- 1  Look at the verbs in bold. Replace *used to* with *would/wouldn't* where possible. Then listen and check.

I ¹**used to** love chocolate. I ²**used to** eat it all day long. Some days I ³**didn't use to** eat anything else, until one day I developed an allergy to it — and now I can't eat it anymore!

I ⁴**used to** be scared of the dark. I ⁵**used to** refuse to go into a dark room on my own. My little sister ⁶**used to** hold my hand!

I ⁷**didn't use to** do any sport at all. I ⁸**used to** think I was fit and healthy enough without it. I ⁹**used to** spend all day at my desk and I ¹⁰**never used to** ever get any exercise. But then I broke my leg and I had to follow an intensive exercise programme. I actually enjoyed it and I've kept doing sport ever since.

1 4 7 9
 2 5 8 10
 3 6

- 2 Rewrite the sentences using *used to* where possible.

1 I went to belly-dancing classes when I was at school.

I used to go to belly-dancing classes when I was at school.

2 I started my first classes when I was eight.

3 We took part in competitions.

4 I loved performing in front of an audience.

5 I continued dancing for almost six years.

6 Then I lost interest and I took up basketball instead.

7 I played in the school team and we trained every day of the week.

8 We were pretty good and we won three local championships.

- 3 Choose the correct options.

A: So, what did you used to do / would you do before you became a teacher?

B: I ²*usually worked* / *used to work* as a banker in the City, in London.

A: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

B: My working life ³*used to be* / *got used to be* very stressful. We ⁴*'re used to working* / *would work* ten or twelve hours a day, every day, so I decided it was time for a change.

A: Was it difficult to ⁵*be used to* / *get used to* your new lifestyle?

B: Well, it took me a bit of time to ⁶*used to* / *get used to* living on a teacher's salary! And I ⁷*'m not used to* / *wouldn't* working with kids, but now I'm loving every minute of it – well, almost!

A: And what about your new working routine?

B: I ⁸*usually* / *used to* work long hours, but when I was a banker I ⁹*would* / *got used to* only get ten or fifteen days' holiday a year. Now I have six weeks' holiday in the summer — that's great!