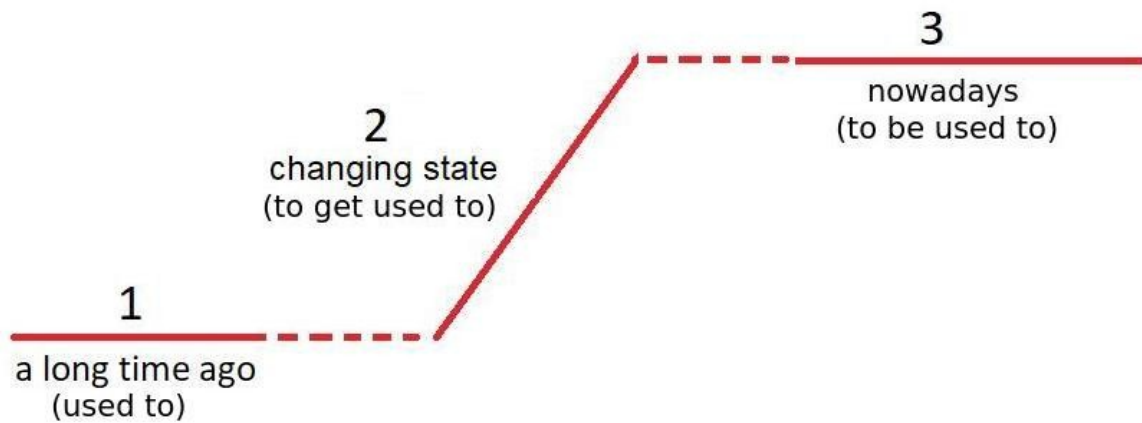


# English Grammar – Past, Present and Changing Habits



## 1. Past habit – “used to” + bare infinitive

- When I was young, I used to play football with my dad.
- When I was at university, I used to smoke a lot.
- A: Did you use to smoke? B: No, I didn't.
- I didn't use to drink wine, but now I love it!
- This is a good example of how the word used to be used. (*passive voice*)

**Note:** “used to” usually means “costumava” but there are some exceptions:

I used to live in Rio.	Eu morava no Rio.	Eu <del>costumava morar</del> no Rio.
She used to be skinny.	Ela era magra.	Ela <del>costumava ser</del> magra.
I didn't use to like coffee.	Eu não gostava de café.	Eu <del>não costumava gostar</del> de café.

## 3. Present habit (or state) – “to be used to” + noun/gerund

- I live in Brazil, so I am used to Brazilian food.
- I live in Brazil, so I am used to eating Brazilian food.
- I live next to a school, so I am used to a lot of noise!
- I live next to a school, so I am used to hearing a lot of noise!

Note: A synonymous phrase is “to be accustomed to” (*formal English*)

Example: I am used to speaking English.

(or) I am accustomed to speaking English.

## 2. Changing state (transition) – “to get used to” + noun/gerund (= “to adapt”)

- I used to live in a house, but I quickly got used to an apartment.
- I used to live in a house, but I quickly got used to living in an apartment.
- I'm living in England, so I need to get used to English roads.
- I'm living in England, so I need to get used to driving on English roads.
- It's impossible! I can't get used to driving on English roads!
- It's so hot in Fortaleza, but I'm getting used to the hot weather.
- It's so hot in Fortaleza, but I'm getting used to living here.
- It's so hot in Fortaleza, but I will get used to living here.

**Here is a complete example:**

When I started work, I **used to drink** normal coffee. *(past habit)*

Then I decided to switch to decaffeinated coffee.

I took a long time to **get used to drinking** decaffeinated coffee. *(transition)*

Now, I **am used to drinking** decaffeinated coffee. *(present habit)*

Suggested videos:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGVI\\_nTJY7A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGVI_nTJY7A) (10 mins)

or: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53gXPS\\_ohZs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53gXPS_ohZs) (12 mins)

**Exercise.** Complete the sentences using “*used to*”, “*get used to*” or “*be used to*”, and the given verbs, conjugating appropriately:

1. Before, I thought that Maria was irritating, but now I \_\_\_\_\_ with her. *(work)*
2. When we were at university, we \_\_\_\_\_ wine every night! *(drink)*
3. I can understand Monique because I \_\_\_\_\_ French. *(speak)*
4. At first, I didn't like my job, but now I \_\_\_\_\_ it.
5. It \_\_\_\_\_ attractive to smoke *(be)*, but nowadays, many people find it offensive.
6. It often takes a long time \_\_\_\_\_ a new job.
7. Running is hard for me because I \_\_\_\_\_ exercise. *(not / do)*
8. We've lived here for a week and slowly, we \_\_\_\_\_ the neighborhood.
9. a. We \_\_\_\_\_ together. *(work) (past habit)*  
b. We \_\_\_\_\_ together. *(work) (present habit)*
10. I took a long time \_\_\_\_\_ married. *(be)*