

8. Be used to/Get used to

*It's cold here. I'm not used to it.
I have to get used to the cold.*

Learning Objective

- You will be able to use the expressions *be* and *get used to* to describe whether or not you are accustomed to certain things.

Noticing

Notice how we form statements using *be used to* and *get used to*:

Subject	to be	used to	noun/pronoun	complement
I	am	used to	the hot weather	in L.A.
John	isn't	used to	it.	--
Subject	get	used to	noun / pronoun	complement
Sally	got	used to	the snow	in Canada
We	didn't get	used to	it.	--

Understanding

Think of *be used to* as *be accustomed to*.

Imagine you have to live in Alaska. It would probably be difficult because you are not accustomed to the cold. Or, you **aren't used to the cold**, so your first winter there would be difficult.

What happens to people who live there after ten years? Well, after time people *become accustomed to the cold*. A better way to say this is that people **get used to the cold after they live in Alaska for a long time**.

Notice how we use these forms in different tenses in the examples below:

I have trouble sleeping in the city because **I'm not used to the noise at night**.
I hope after a while **I will get used to it** and get a good night's sleep.

I **used to*** hate all the homework that my teachers gave me, but after a while **I got used to it**. I **wasn't used to it** at first - I **used to*** go out with my friends after school - but now **I'm used to doing** a lot of homework.

Be Careful!

Don't confuse **used to*** with **be/get used to**. Remember that **used to** describes an action you did repetitively in the past:

I used to play with dolls when I was a little girl.