

Unit 38: USED TO

Used to can be a verb (Unit 3) or an adjective (Unit 64). The meanings of the verb and the adjective are not the same.

1 As a verb

It is a past simple formation (Unit 21). Put the base form of the verb after **to**:

used to go didn't use to go Did ... use to go?

We use it to talk about habits or states in the past.

Montreal	used to be	very polluted, but it is cleaner now.
My uncle	used to smoke	eighty cigarettes a day. He died at forty-five.
I never	used to like	coffee, but now I drink a lot of it.
We didn't	use to watch	TV when it was hot.
Did you	use to go	swimming when you lived in Victoria?

NOTICE: We can also use **would** for past habit:

Henry VIII of England **would** often become angry if anyone disagreed with him.

2 As an adjective

Put **get** or **be** before used to.

After used to, use a noun phrase (Unit 45.3) or a verbal noun (Unit 48).

It means "familiar with". For example:

I **am used to** working hard. It is not new to me.

I **am getting used to** the cold weather, but it was difficult for me at first.

Don't worry about the new job. You'll soon **get used to** it.

He **was not used to** living on his own, so when he started, it felt very strange.

NOTICE: See the difference in meaning:

He **is used to** getting up early.

He has got up early for a long time.

He **used to** get up early.

But now he gets up late.