New things, familiar things

Be used to / get used to | B1-B2 | Teens & adults | 45-60 minutes

UT2 | STUDENT PAGE 1 / LOOK AND EXPLAIN

Which routines feel normal? Which are still becoming easier?

FAMILIAR NOW / be used to



Sara is used to making video calls.
At first, they felt strange.
Now they feel normal.



Tom is used to gardening.
At first, it felt unfamiliar.
Now it feels normal.



Alex is used to cooking at home.
At first, it was new to them.
Now it feels normal.

STILL BECOMING FAMILIAR / get used to



Sara is getting used to making bowls. It is becoming easier.



Tom is getting used to dancing.
Each class feels a little easier.



Alex is getting used to using the bakery oven. They still need some help.

Explain the examples, then check the grammar

Sara is used to making video calls. Were they always normal for her?
No. They felt strange at first, but they feel normal NOW.
She is getting used to making bowls. Is the change finished? No, not yet.
Be used to + noun / -ing: something feels normal or familiar now.
Before: Gardening felt new to Tom. Now: He is used to gardening.
Get used to + noun / -ing: become familiar. He is getting used to dancing.
His class is new. He's only been going for a couple of weeks, so he's still adjusting.
Negative: I'm not used to the noise. Question: Are you used to it?
Past habit: I used to work at home. Now I work in a bakery.
Compare: work after used to; working after be/get used to.
Being used to something does not mean you like it.

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UT2 | STUDENT PAGE 2 / PRACTISE AND RESPOND

1. Choose the right form

1. Calls felt strange at first. Now they feel normal. Sara **is used to / is getting used to making them.**
2. Pottery is new but easier each week. Sara **is used to / is getting used to** it.
3. Tom is used to **garden / gardening**.
4. Alex used to **work / working** at home. Now they work in a bakery.

2. Sort the sentences

Sort A-F: **an old situation**, **familiar now**, or **still adjusting**.

A. I used to share a kitchen. Now I live alone.

B. I'm used to sharing a kitchen. It felt strange at first, but now it's normal.

C. I’m getting used to sharing a kitchen. It’s becoming easier.

D. I’m getting used to my new phone. I still need help.

E. I used to have a small phone. Now I have a larger one.

F. I'm used to this phone. It was confusing at first, but now it feels familiar.

Compare with your partner. Explain one choice, then check your answers.

3. Help a friend settle in

A friend asks for advice
Everything feels new! I’m sharing a home with other people, starting work earlier and taking a busy bus. How can I make the first week easier?

1. Choose one of your friend's new routines. Say what feels normal for you.
2. Explain how you got used to it. Suggest one helpful first step.
3. Your partner asks a follow-up question. Swap roles and choose another routine.

Try: I'm used to... / At first... / I got used to... by... / You could...

Now move on: ask and answer the questions on page 3.

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UT2 | STUDENT PAGE 3 / ASK AND ANSWER

4. Ask and answer

Take turns asking. Give examples and ask follow-up questions.
Choose a few questions to explore. You can invent an answer or pass.

1. Are you used to speaking English with different people? What helps?
2. What new food or drink took you a while to get used to?
3. Could you get used to living somewhere much quieter or busier? Why?
4. What are you still getting used to on your phone or computer?
5. Are you used to asking for help? When is it difficult?
6. What did you use to dislike but now enjoy? What changed?
7. How long did it take you to get used to a new job, course or hobby?
8. Are you used to making plans early, or do you prefer to be spontaneous?
9. What routine are you used to that a visitor might find surprising?
10. What would be hardest to get used to if you moved to another country?
11. What do you do to help someone who is getting used to a new place?
12. What would you like to try, even if it might take time to get used to?

Follow an answer: Why? / What was that like? / What happened next?
To finish: Tell your partner one interesting thing you learned about them.

5. Optional homework: complete the sentences

1. I'm used to _____ early. It feels normal. **(start)**
2. I'm getting used to _____ the new software. It's becoming easier. **(use)**
3. I used to _____ near the station. Now I live by the park. **(live)**
4. The new route feels normal now. I _____ used to it last month. **(get)**

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UT2 | TEACHER NOTES AND ANSWERS

Share: Learners use pages 1-3. Keep page 4 for yourself.
Outcome: Learners distinguish past habits, familiarity and adjustment in conversation.
Prepare: Print/share the pages. No separate audio, cards or props are needed.

Suggested lesson route

Pictures and ideas | 7 minutes Let pairs describe the pictures first. Then read the facts or picture captions. Ask which activities feel normal and which are becoming easier. The words supply the meaning; appearance alone cannot prove familiarity.

Brief grammar and practice | 8 minutes Read the mini grammar box selectively. Complete page 2 task 1 and check. Elicit the reason for one choice; avoid a long explanation of every form.

Sort and compare | 5 minutes Sort the six sentences in pairs. Check the key, then move on. Do not turn each sentence into another lengthy discussion.

One practical reply | 8-10 minutes Learners choose a response format. Give a brief thinking pause, then let them reply and ask one follow-up. Swap roles. Listen for meaning and note a useful correction.

Broaden the conversation | 15-20 minutes Use page 3 to move away from the opening characters. Ask and answer a few questions deeply. After brief feedback, repeat one answer more clearly. End with something learned about a partner.

Answers and useful alternatives

Page 1: No - calls felt strange before, but are normal now. Bowls: no, not finished.
Page 2 / 1: 1 is used to; 2 is getting used to; 3 gardening; 4 work.
Page 2 / 2: Old A, E. Familiar B, F. Adjusting C, D.
Page 3 / 5 (homework): 1 starting; 2 using; 3 live; 4 got.

In the advice task, **got used to** means the adjustment happened. Accept **got used to + noun/-ing** and **got used to ... by + -ing**. Change be/get for subject and time. **Not used to** means unfamiliar; it does not necessarily mean adjustment is happening. Familiarity does not imply enjoyment.

Teaching focus: Contrast BEFORE (new or strange) with NOW (normal or familiar).
Be used to describes familiarity; an earlier period of adjustment is not always stated.

Support: Let learners use the model phrases or answer as an invented person.
Online / one-to-one: Share pages 1-3. Take the other role yourself or use pairs.
Picture inclusion: Ages, backgrounds and disabilities are ordinary character details; do not infer ability, identity or personal history from appearance alone.
Open answers: Accept different replies. Check the meaning and the verb form.

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