

Grammatical structures

which bring us many doubts

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Difference between Be Used To/Get Used To/Used To

Get used to

- ★ To **get used to** something means to *become accustomed* to it.
- ★ **Get used to** talks about the process
- ★ **Get used to** means that in the beginning a situation was strange or unusual but is not anymore or will soon stop being strange or unusual because of a passage in time.

For Example

When David moved to Japan it took him a while to get used to the food.

Structure:

Get used to + something / someone

I got used to his Scottish accent after a while .

Get used to + verb (-ing form)

I got used to waking up early in the morning.

*After a while he didn't mind the noise in the office; he **got used to it**.*

Be used to

- ★ **Be used to** talks about the result.
- ★ If you **are used to** something, you have often done or experienced it; it is not strange, new or difficult for you.

— — —
Structure: **Be used to + noun phrase or verb (-ing form)**

*I **am used to** getting up early in the morning. I don't mind it.*

*He didn't complain about the neighbours' loud party – he **was used to** the noise.*

We can also say **be used to someone**.

*I don't think Tom's strange – I'm **used to him**.*

Negative: **be not used to**.

*I don't understand him: I'm **not used to** his accent yet.*

Used to

— — —

We use *used to* + infinitive to talk about a past situation that is no longer true. It tells us that there was a repeated action or state in the past which has now changed.

She used to be a long-distance runner when she was younger.

I didn't use to sleep very well, but then I started doing yoga and it really helps.

Did you use to come here as a child?

We use this expression to talk about habits or repeated actions in the past which we don't do in the present. We also use it to talk about states in the past which are no longer true. For example:

— — —

- I used to have long hair (but now I have short hair).
- He used to smoke (but now he doesn't smoke).
- They used to live in India (but now they live in Germany).

Watch out! With the negative and the question it's 'use' and not 'used':

- Did you use to be a teacher?
- Did he use to study French?
- She didn't use to like chocolate, but she does now.
- I didn't use to want to have a nice house.

Note! With this 'used to' there is no verb 'be'. We CAN'T say 'I am used to have long hair'.

A Few/Few

— — —

★ BEFORE PLURAL NOUNS

FEW = NOT MANY/ALMOST NONE

Few men turned up for the work yesterday OR We stayed a **few** days in Florence and visited the museums

A FEW = SEVERAL, SOME

I know a few people who had the same problem.

A Little/Little

★ BEFORE UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

LITTLE = NOT MUCH/ALMOST NOTHING

They had **little** money to spend.

A LITTLE = A SMALL AMOUNT

I have **a little** money. I can't go to the cinema with you.

It's (high/about) time..

— — —

We use this structure to say that something is not happening and it should be.

For example:

- ★ **It's about time you left this party.**
- ★ **It's high time you paid those bills.**
- ★ **It's time I went.**
- ★ **Isn't it high time you were going out for your train? (=Shouldn't you be going out for your train?)**

Would Rather and Would Sooner

For example:

— — — We use “would rather” to describe preferences (often a polite way to give/refuse permission, or make suggestions)

- ★ I'd sooner you **gave** me a refund. A credit note's no use to me.
- ★ I would rather you **didn't smoke** in here.

If the person is expressing a preference and the subject of the preference are the same we use an infinitive instead of the past simple.

I'd rather spend it on something frivolous - infinitive - subject and speaker are the same!!

We'd sooner you spent your bonus on something useful. - past tense - speaker and subject ARE NOT the same

would prefer

When the person himself expresses a preference on something referring to the present or future:

Subject + would prefer + to infinitive + verb

I would prefer ('d prefer) to watch TV rather than (to) do shopping.

When referring to the past:

Subject + would prefer ('d prefer) to + have + past participle form of a verb

I would prefer (I'd prefer) to have been born somewhere else.

When the person expresses a preference on someone else's actions referring to the present or future:

Subject + would prefer ('d prefer) + object + to infinitive + verb
I would prefer ('d prefer) my son to live with me rather than (to) live abroad.

When referring to the past:

Subject + would prefer ('d prefer) + object + to + have + past participle form of a verb
I would prefer your daughter to have accepted my apology rather than (to have) ignored me last night.

Other examples:

They would prefer me not to live in London.

Tom prefers learning English to French.

We prefer to stay home rather than get wet in the rain.

The teacher prefers the students to use a pencil in the exam.

We prefer not to talk about it.

My brother prefers watching football to playing it.

I would prefer to come early rather than be late.

Differences between

Both = this AND that

Either = this OR that

Neither = NOT this and NOT that.

Both is used with 'and' e.g.

"Emma and Megan both went to the party."

We don't usually use this with a negative sentence, but use **neither** instead.

e.g.

"Both of us don't swim regularly." **WRONG.**

"Neither of us swim regularly." **MUCH BETTER!**

Either is used with 'or' e.g.

"Do you want either chocolate or crisps?"

We often use **neither** with 'nor', although this is quite formal. E.g.

"Neither Caroline nor Marguerite worked for EC during the world cup."

Be careful not to use **neither** with another negative e.g.

"I don't want neither chocolate nor crisps." **WRONG.**

We cannot have a double negative!

have sth done

— — —
We use **HAVE SOMETHING DONE** to say that we arrange for somebody else to do something for US!

We also use this structure to say that something happens to somebody or their belongings.

Compare:

- ★ Thomas repaired the door.
- ★ Thomas had his door repaired.
- ★ Susan had her hair cut yesterday.
- ★ George had his nose broken in a fight.



The verb « to have » can be put into different tenses depending on the context	object	The second verb is always in the past participle .
She has	her hair	cut regularly.
She's having	her hair	cut at the moment.
Look! She's had	her hair	cut , it looks nice.
She had	her hair	cut last week.
She was having	her hair	cut when I arrived.
She'd had	her hair	cut just before she went on holiday.
She's going to have	her hair	cut next week.
She's having	her hair	cut this afternoon.
She'll probably have	her hair	cut before the holiday.
She would have	her hair	cut if she had enough time.
She will have had	her hair	cut by the time we arrive.

We can also say “Get Something Done”

— — —
Instead of “have something done”.

Mainly in informal spoken English.

For Example:

- ★ I think you should **get your hair cut**.
- ★ When are you going to **get the car repaired**?

Need doing

*The need to have a service done can
be described with*

NEED DOING.

For example:

- ★ Your hair needs cutting.
- ★ This wound needs stitching.

Thank you for your attention! :)