

Used to / Preposition Practice

You have learned that after a preposition, a gerund must be used. However...

- BE CAREFUL! Some expressions use “to,” which should not be confused with the infinitive form (to + simple form). When you use the preposition “to,” you must follow it by the gerund form, not the simple form of the verb! ***What are some preposition combinations that include the word “to?”*
- BE CAREFUL! The expression **be/get used to** means *be / get accustomed to* and needs to be followed by a gerund. (He **is used to working** late on Fridays.) However, the expression *used to* describes repeated past actions and needs to be followed by the simple form. (He **used to work** until 11:00pm).

A. *Larry Jones quit school after high school and had various jobs. Then he decided to go to college. Now he is a full-time student. This is a big change for him. Complete the sentences about Larry. Use the appropriate form of the verb in parentheses.*

1. Larry used to _____ (be) a student, but then he quit after high school.
2. He used to _____ (have) a job.
3. In fact, he used to _____ (have) a lot of different jobs.
4. When he went back to college, he had to get used to _____ (be) a student every day.
5. He wasn't used to _____ (do) homework again and _____ (study) for tests.
6. He had to get used to _____ (earn) quite a bit of money.
7. When Larry was working, he used to _____ (earn) quite a bit of money. He used to _____ (spend) everything he earned, too. Now, he has to get used to _____ (spend) less money on food and entertainment.
8. It hasn't been easy, but now Larry is used to _____ (live) a student's life again.

B. *Combine the following pairs of sentences to make statements about school life. Use the prepositions in parentheses.*

1. You can't walk on campus late at night. You have to worry about your safety.
(without)
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2. In some cases, students just complain. They don't make suggestions for improvements.
(instead of)
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3. Students get annoyed with teachers. Some teachers come late to class. (for)

4. You can improve your grades. Study regularly. (by)

5. We can make changes. We can tell the administration about our concerns. (by)

6. The administration can help. It can listen to our concerns.
