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LEARNING ENGLISH
BBC Learning English - Quiznet

Grammar used to…
For each of the six questions choose the one correct answer.

1. Which of the following is NOT possible? When I lived in Spain, we ____ really late at night, maybe 10 or 11 o’clock.
   a. were used to eat
   b. ate
   c. used to eat
   d. would eat

2. Did you see the Prime Minister’s speech? He _______ about debt relief in developing countries.
   a. speak
   b. spoke
   c. spoken
   d. used to speak

3. Which of the following is NOT correct? I remember our trips to the seaside when I was a little boy, we ______ all day playing in the sea.
   a. would spend
   b. used to spend
   c. spended
   d. spent

4. When Guillaume lived in France he ________ 20 cigarettes a day.
   a. used to smoke
   b. used to smoking
   c. was used to smoke
   d. used to smoked

5. Which is the best response to use in everyday conversation? “First I found living in the city very stressful, but now I guess __________.”
   a. I’m used to it
   b. I’m accustomed to it
   c. I’m familiar with it
   d. I used to

6. Jean ________ his new job last week, he’s working in the new call centre downtown.
   a. used to start
   b. would start
   c. started
   d. had started
Grammar used to…

Answers

1. Which of the following is NOT possible? When I lived in Spain, we ______ really late at night, maybe 10 or 11 o'clock.
   a. were used to eat - 'We were used to eat' is not possible. It is the correct answer.
   b. ate - 'ate' is the past of eat.
   c. used to eat - 'We used to eat' describes a past habit e.g. He used to smoke (maybe for a long time), but now he doesn't.
   d. would eat - 'We would eat' describes a past habit e.g. 'We would eat really late at night'

2. Did you see the Prime Minister’s speech? He ____ about debt relief in developing countries.
   a. speak - 'Speak' is the present form, what's the past of speak?
   b. spoke - 'Spoke' is the past of speak. Correct
   c. spoken - 'Spoken' is the past participle of speak.
   d. used to speak - 'Used to speak' describes a past habit - something which happened a lot.

3. Which of the following is NOT correct? I remember our trips to the seaside when I was a little boy, we ______ all day playing in the sea.
   a. would spend - Use 'would + infinitive' to remember things in the past, often with a 'nostalgic vision' of the past.
   b. used to spend - Use 'used to + infinitive' to talk about past habits - things which happened often.
   c. spented - Spended isn’t possible - what's the irregular past form of spend? Correct.
   d. spent - Spent can be used to describe things which happened once or more that once.

4. When Guillaume lived in France he ______ 20 cigarettes a day.
   a. used to smoke - describes a past habit. He used to smoke (maybe for a long time), but now he doesn’t. Correct
   b. used to smoking - 'Used to smoking' is not correct.
   c. was used to smoke - 'Was used to smoke' is not correct.
   d. used to smoked - 'Used to smoked' is not correct

5. Which is the best response to use in everyday conversation? “First I found living in the city very stressful, but now I guess ________.”
   a. I'm used to it - suggests something was (but is not now) unfamiliar or strange. Correct
   b. I'm accustomed to it - is very formal – not for everyday conversation
   c. I'm familiar with it - is very formal - not for everyday conversation
   d. I used to - is not correct, you need to use an object after the verb i.e. I'm used to something.

6. Jean ________ his new job last week, he's working in the new call centre downtown.
   a. used to start - suggests something happened regularly - he used to start at 8 am (everyday).
   b. would start - suggests something happened regularly - he would start at 8 am (everyday).
   c. started - is correct as this action happened only once. Correct
   d. had started - is not correct - use this verb form (past perfect) to describe things which happen before another time in the past.