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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. spend
- 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

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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. spend - **Spend 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 than 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.