USED TO

B2 FIRST
Learn how to do
Key Word
Transformation
Exercises

USED TO

We use **"used to"** to say that something happened continuously or frequently during a period in the past :
- I used to live in Manchester.
- I didn't use to like him much when we were at school.
- He used to play football for the local team, but he's too old now.

Negative: didn't use to
- I didn't use to like him.
- It didn't use to be so crowded in the shops as it is nowadays.

In very formal styles, we can use the negative form **used not to**:
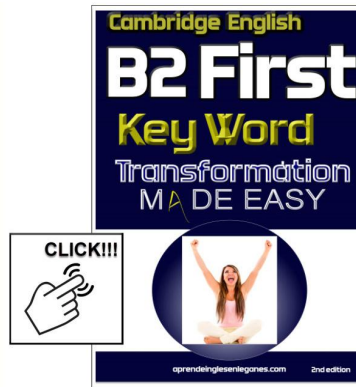- They used not to allow shops to be open on Sundays.

Question : did/didn't (you) use to…?
The normal question form is did/didn't (you) use to … ? :
- Did you use to eat a lot of sweets when you were a child?
- Did she use to work in a restaurant?
- Didn't you use to have long hair?

Tags : we normally make tags after used to with auxiliary did:
- He used to be your boss, did he?
- We used to love going to the museum, didn't we?

BE USED TO

Be used to means 'be accustomed to' or 'be familiar with'. It can refer to the past, present or future. We follow be used to with a noun phrase, a pronoun or the -ing form of a verb:
- I work in a hospital, so I'm used to long hours.
- She lives in a very small village and hates traffic. She's not used to it.

[+ -ing verb]
- I'm used to getting up early.

GET USED TO

To become familiar with sth or someone:
- Eventually you'll get used to the smells of the laboratory.
- Don't worry—you'll soon get used to his sense of humour.

[+ -ing verb]
- I didn't think I could ever get used to living in a big city after living in the country.

More formally, we can also say become used to:
- We've become used to the idea of English growing in popularity across the world.