



## 23 PRESENT HABIT

### English

- Wentworth: You know that travelling is very easy today. Within a few hours, a day at most, you can reach the other side of the world and enjoy the comfort you are used to having. Yet sometimes, depending on the countries, you find yourself alone, lost and confused with translations. Let me give you an example, especially in Europe, more precisely southern Europe. Apart from Greece, in a lot of countries, you won't unfortunately meet a lot of people who speak decent English. They know the words but it's all broken English, they don't put articles or use the verb in an appropriate way.
- Sarah: I disagree. A lot of people speak good English but sometimes, people are shy or they talk with a strong accent which makes them hardly understandable if you're not accustomed to their pronunciation.
- Wentworth: I agree with you to some extent. But still... Where was I? I went to Italy and I have to say that even in very touristic places, it might be difficult to be able to communicate. When you book your tickets, your hotel room and plan visits of cities and museums, you collect a lot of information online in English, and other languages as well, of course. Yet, when you land, and you find out the alphabet is different, the numbers are different like in Asia, or you don't speak a word of the language, you start feeling nervous. When you hail a taxi or you try to get information from a train station employee, shop assistants then you realize how difficult it is to make yourself understood.
- Sarah: I noticed that other tourists are sometimes more helpful than locals. However, as you said, we are at fault if we visit a country and we have no basic knowledge of the language. Sometimes knowing the greetings can help you interacting with the locals. Usually people aged 50 and up usually have less knowledge when it comes to languages.
- Wentworth: It's not always true. If you go to areas close to borders, people from all ages tend to speak the language of the neighboring country. I think the only country who speaks proficient English to an astonishing level is Sweden.
- Sarah: So I've heard. They are the best foreign English speakers. Norway ranked second, followed by the Netherlands, Estonia, Denmark, Austria and Finland.
- Wentworth: I think if you want to talk to people, you make the effort to learn the language. It could be English or any other foreign language.
- Sarah: I agree. From my point of view, it shows interest in the country and its culture and particularly its people.
- Wentworth: You are right. It is always surprisingly pleasant and moving to talk to a foreigner who speaks English better than I do! Haha



Travelling is very easy today	To start (vING)
Within+duration	To hail
A few + plural noun	A shop assistant
To reach	To make <i>one's self</i> understood
A side	To notice
To enjoy	helpful
comfort	however
To be used to (vING)	As you said it
Yet=but	At fault
sometimes	if
Depending on	knowledge
To find one's self	A greeting
lost	To help
confused	To interact
A translation	A local
Let me...	usually
especially	Aged (50) and up
precisely	less
southern	'when it comes to'
'apart from'	An area
unfortunately	Close to



To meet/met/met	A border= a frontier
A word	To tend (to)
'broken English'	Neighboring country (US)/ Neighbouring country 5UK)
To put/put/put	proficient
A way	astonishing
appropriate	A level
To disagree	Sweden
shy	'so I've heard'
strong	The best
Make understandable	Foreign (adjective)
HARDLY	To rank
'to some extent'	Followed by
But still	The Netherlands
Have to	Estonia/ Denmark/ Austria and Finland.
MIGHT	'From my point of view'
To be able to	To show interest
To book	To be right
A ticket	surprisingly
To plan	always
To collect	pleasant
As well	moving
Of course	A foreigner (person)
Yet=but=still	Better=comparative form of 'well'
To land	Better than ...
To find out	



Grammar: PRESENT HABIT

In English, we have 3 different ways to refer to present habits.

### a)SIMPLE PRESENT

The simple form of the present tense accounts for present habits. We can add an adverb of frequency.

example: I (always) sleep in on Sunday morning

She doesn't exercise during lunch break

### b)BE USED TO

If you refer to a present habit, then you conjugate BE at the present tense and the verb after TO has an ending in – ING.

The pattern is AM/ARE/IS USED TO + **vING**

example: you are used to **working late at night**.

When we have the habit of something, we can use BE USED TO with a noun

The pattern is AM/ARE/IS USED TO + noun

he is used to her attitude



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**c) BE ACCUSTOMED TO**

If you refer to a present habit, then you conjugate BE at the present tense and the verb after TO has an ending in – ING.

The pattern is AM/ARE/IS ACCUSTOMED TO + **vING**

example: you are accustomed to **running after work**.

When we have the habit of something, we can use BE ACCUSTOMED TO with a noun

The pattern is AM/ARE/IS ACCUSTOMED TO + noun

example:

he is accustomed to his client's comments