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Pre-Intermediate
Learning new words and expressions
Episode 1 - Couch Potato.



Let's listen to a dialogue:

Dialogue:

- Mary! Mary! Let me in!
- Who is it?
- It's me, Jane! Let me in!
- Ok-ok.
- Why are you at home? It's weekend. You must go out.
- I don't want to go out.
- What are you doing here? Are you watching TV or surfing the Internet?
- Is it bad? I just get a kick out of it.
- It's a waste of time! You are a real couch potato.
- Get used to it.

Let's start with new words

Let me in - you ask somebody to let you come in, enter somebody's house or room.

e.g. if you have forgotten your keys at home and can't open the door, you can call your roommate and ask: "I forgot my keys! Can you let me in?" Or a maniac follows you, so you bang on somebody's door and cry "Let me in!"

to surf the Internet - to use the Internet, usually for entertainment purposes

e.g. My brother spends hours surfing the Internet. Today many people surf the Internet at work. I like to surf the Internet before I go to sleep.

to waste - to spend something (money/time) unproductively, to use something without purpose or need

e.g. Stop wasting time surfing the Internet! Today many people waste a lot of time watching TV. I try not to waste my time. Go away! I don't want to listen to you. You are wasting my time!

Today we have two idiomatic expressions

to get a kick out of something - to enjoy doing something very much, to get real pleasure from something.

e.g. I get a kick out of listening to rock music. My girlfriend gets a kick out of shopping for shoes.

couch potato - a lazy person, who lies on his sofa, watches TV all day and does nothing else.

e.g. Are you watching TV again! You are a real couch potato. Couch potatoes soon become fat and unhealthy. Don't be a couch potato! Go out and do something useful!

Grammar

used to do something / to get used to something / to be used to something

Used to do something - We say "I used to do it," when you did it in past but you don't do it any more. e.g. I used to smoke when I was younger, but now I don't. She used to waste a lot of money, not she tries to save it. Its negative form is: I didn't use to smoke.

Get used to something - we say this when we become accustomed to something. e.g. My parents just got divorced. It is very hard to get used to it. I have moved to Australia. I must get used to hot weather. After expression "get used to" you may use verb + -ing. E.g. He can't get used to getting up early.

To be used to something - is when we are already accustomed to something. It is already our habit, or we are familiar with it. E.g. People in Brazil are used to hot weather. People in the North are used to cold weather. How can you be so calm when he shouts at you? - I am used to it, don't worry.

Now let's listen to our dialogue again and remember all the words.

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