

Lesson 30: I'm used to it  
レッスン 30: 慣れています

**Target: Describing getting accustomed to changes**  
 目的: 変化に慣れていくことについて説明しましょう!

Reading  
単語

## New vocabulary introduced in the reading

• culture shock	カルチャーショック	• (to) get lost	道に迷う
• initially	当初は	• in the beginning	初めに
• (be) spoken	話される	• (be) packed	混んだ
• (to) master...	マスターする	• (to) occur	起こる
• an expression	言い回し	• a quake	地震
• (to) step off...	～から降りる	• the point of...	意味
• a transportation system	交通システム	• (to) keep up with...	～に遅れずについていく
• (to) navigate...	道を指図する	• (to) affect...	～に影響を及ぼす
• a maze	迷路	• all the time	年がら年中

## 1

Read the passage and circle the new words as you find them

Because I work as a foreign correspondent I've been living overseas for ages. I don't even remember when I first came to Japan. It's been a long time, but Japan feels like home now. I had a little bit of culture shock initially after I arrived, but now I don't really have any problems.

I've gotten used to the language. I can read a Japanese newspaper now and I'm also pretty good at spoken Japanese, even though I still haven't been able to master formal Japanese yet. It's just so difficult. There are so many expressions. I remember when I stepped off the airplane, I literally didn't know a single word in Japanese, and when I tried to order something to eat at a local restaurant I was incredibly difficult. That was not a fun experience.

Another thing that took me a while to get a hang of using was the transportation system here. Because I'm from a small town that didn't even have a train station I had no experience navigating the maze which is the Tokyo Metro. I frequently got lost, or got on the wrong train in the beginning. Also, commuting to work on a really packed train did take some getting used to. But I've been doing this every day for years now. Actually, I'm so used to it now that I don't think I could live without the trains here.

Earthquakes over here occur much more frequently than back home. For the first few years I was really scared anytime one of them hit, even if it was just a little one. But now, I've become accustomed to them so much that the last time we had a small quake I thought It was just part of the movie I was watching.

That being said, there are one or two things that I'm not 100% used to yet. I know I've been here for ages but I'm still surprised by all the strange festivals they have here. I thought I knew them all, but each year I find out about a new or stranger festival. Just the other day, I found out there is a real festival where the whole point is to simply yell as loud as you can. It kind of sounds like fun actually. I might try to go.

Also, I don't think I'll ever get used to the fashion here. It's just so crazy and changes all the time. It's impossible to keep up with. Luckily, I can just wear a suit every day so it doesn't really affect me so much.

## 2

Answer the questions below

- Has he gotten used to the language?
- What took him a while to get a hang of using?
- Did commuting on a packed train take some getting used to?
- Is he used to the trains there now?
- Has he become accustomed to the earthquakes?
- What is he still surprised by?
- Does he think he'll ever get used to the fashion there?
- How many examples of "use / accustomed to" can you find?

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