

Optimise your pronunciation

Discussion

- When *use* appears in a sentence, either as a verb or as part of a longer word, we need to be careful about how we pronounce it.
- Use* has a slightly different pronunciation depending on the grammar structure we are using. Sometimes the *s* is pronounced as a /z/ and at other times like an /s/.

1 2.01 Tick the pairs of sentences where *use* sounds the same. Listen and check.

- a) Whose tent did you use when you went camping?

b) Do you know how to use stones to start a fire? ☐
- a) Joss didn't use to feel comfortable talking in front of other people.

b) What did you use as a reward when you trained your dog? ☐
- a) I'm not used to doing my own cooking and cleaning.

b) Put your used plates in the dishwasher. ☐

- a) We used to spend hours practising our skateboard tricks.

b) Are you used to living in the city centre now? ☐

2 2.02 Decide how *use* is pronounced in each sentence and circle /s/ or /z/. Listen and check.

- They taught us how to use a sharp knife safely. /s/ /z/
- He used a sharp knife to cut the apple. /s/ /z/
- She used to be in the Girl Guides. /s/ /z/
- I'm used to swimming in a swimming pool. /s/ /z/
- I didn't use to like camping but I'm getting more used to it now. /s/ /z/
- Penknives are very useful things. /s/ /z/

3 2.03 Listen again and repeat.

4 Write three sentences of your own using different forms of *use*. Practise saying your sentences using the correct pronunciation. Record yourself if you can.

I used to skateboard a lot.

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