

2

Past tenses

3 Choose the correct form of the verbs in this text.

My granny is 93 and she's come to live with us at our house. We're all pleased because we love having her near us. She's a very independent person and until this year, she (1) refused / was refusing to move to the flat on our ground floor. But last month she suddenly (2) changed / was changing her mind and I (3) asked / would ask her why. She explained that for years, nobody in her village (4) would lock / was locking their front doors and the place (5) used to feel / would feel safe, but last month (6) she met / was meeting a neighbour in the street when she (7) was walking / would walk home from the shops and (8) heard / was hearing some bad news. Thieves (9) were breaking / got used to breaking into people's houses while they (10) were sitting / would sit in their back gardens.

She (11) realised / was realising that she (12) wasn't wanting / didn't want to live alone any more. She (13) isn't used / didn't use to being in the town yet, but it's not as difficult as she (14) was thinking / thought it might be, and she loves seeing us more often.

4 Fill in the gaps with a suitable form of *be/get used to*.

- Rita's very tired this morning. She isn't used to (not) going to bed late.
- Don't worry about the children: they are used to going to school by bus.
- My new boss is used to giving orders, not receiving them.
- She wasn't used to (not) drinking very strong coffee and it made her ill.
- Are you used to (you) our climate or do you still miss the sunshine?
- I had never stayed in such an expensive hotel before, but I soon got used to it.

5 Complete these sentences by Cambridge First candidates with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs.

- Don't ask me about the concert! I was working (work) in the stadium café when the band was playing (play).
- I was walking (look) round the palace when a man stopped (stop) me to ask for directions.
- The lights were going (go) out while she was having (have) a party in her house.
- She walked (go) quietly out of her bedroom and was standing (stand) behind the door so she could hear what they were saying.
- I hoped (hope) my colleagues would say 'happy birthday' when I got to work, but nobody said (say) anything.

6 Correct the mistakes with *used to* in these sentences by Cambridge First candidates.

- When I was a child I am used to go camping. used
- My parents used to often take me to the zoo. used to
- They didn't used to help their parents with housework, but now they do. didn't use
- We use to go to the beach every day last summer. used to
- Helen is a teacher at a primary school, so she used to teach children. used to
- I would like to be a sports instructor because I was used to train tennis players before I came to England. would like to be