

DAY 68. VERB FORMS

2 Complete the texts with an appropriate form of the verb in brackets.

A

Derek Taylor, 87, is one of Britain's longest-serving Santas: he (1) _____ (put) on his red suit and white beard for over 50 years now. He believes he (2) _____ (manage) to hold down his job in a Rotherham department store for so long by adapting to the changing attitudes of the children he (3) _____ (meet) down the years. 'Back in the 1960s, children (4) _____ (believe) in Father Christmas totally and (5) _____ (ask) lots of questions, like "Where exactly do you live?" or "How do you manage to squeeze down chimneys?" Nowadays they just tell me about the presents they want. Of course, the toys they ask for (6) _____ (change) dramatically over the years. In the old days, if you (7) _____ (say) you would try and bring them the doll or roller skates they wanted, their faces (8) _____ (light) up. Now it's all mobile phones, computers and games consoles.'

B

I'll never forget the time I (1) _____ (go) to the hairdresser's way back in the 1940s for my first perm, or 'permanent wave', after I (2) _____ (see) a picture of Gina Lollobrigida with one in a film magazine. I (3) _____ (work) in a shop at the time, and I (4) _____ (book) an appointment for 1.30 pm on Wednesday afternoon, my half day off. (5) _____ (wash) and cut my hair, the hairdresser rolled it into tight and rather painful metal curlers. He then connected the curlers to wires from a machine that looked as if it (6) _____ (just/land) from outer space! He chose that moment to tell me he (7) _____ (experience) problems with the machine for the last few days and that the 'baking' procedure (8) _____ (take) a little longer than expected. In fact, I (9) _____ (spend) over six hours in the hairdresser's altogether and (10) _____ (not/arrive) home until well after 8 o'clock! At one point during my long ordeal, after I (11) _____ (sit) in the same chair for about four hours, my worried husband phoned the hairdresser's to ask what time I (12) _____ (leave). It was the first time I (13) _____ (ever/have) a perm, and I decided there and then that it (14) _____ (be) my last!

Open cloze

For questions 1–8, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only **one** word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0). Write your answers **IN CAPITAL LETTERS**.

What, no jet packs?

The usual complaint (0) *WHEN* looking back at old predictions about the future is that a lot of the things promised in previous decades are (1) near coming true. Jet packs, for example, (2) have been commonly available by now. One can't help feeling disappointed. But reading a piece from 1988, in (3) the *Los Angeles Times Magazine* tries to predict life for a 2013 household, has the opposite effect. The article, written by Nicole Yorkin, who later (4) on to become a screenwriter for several science-fiction series, traces a day in the life of a fictitious family. It begins in the morning when their coffee maker turns itself on and ends (5) one of the family reading in bed on a laser disc. Meanwhile, data is stored on credit-card-sized computers that Yorkin uncannily refers to (6) 'smart cards' and films are watched on (7) are described as 'ultra-thin, high-resolution video screens'. Some things aren't quite so accurate, (8) Yorkin suggests, for example, that her futuristic family will be served by home robots.