GRAMMAR

past tenses

1 Complete the sentences with the correct ending (A or B).

1 I first went abroad
- **A** twice already this year.
- **B** two years ago, when I was thirteen.

2 While I was taking a selfie,
- **A** a girl suddenly put her face in the picture.
- **B** a girl was putting her face in the picture.

3 He didn't really join in. He
- **A** was always playing computer games instead of enjoying the trip.
- **B** 's been playing computer games instead of enjoying the trip.

4 We were going to get tickets for the water park
- **A** and it was great fun.
- **B** but it was closed on Sunday.

5 Dad was due to join us for the second week
- **A** but he was ill and couldn't make it.
- **B** and he loved the area too.

6 There was no one to help us. We got to the hotel after midnight and
- **A** the receptionist went home.
- **B** the receptionist had already gone home.

7 I was happy, but really tired after
- **A** we've been exploring the city all day.
- **B** we'd been exploring the city all day.

2 Complete the sentences with the past form of these verbs.

going to + skype / be read / miss / have to swim / step
take off / wait used + spend / would + collect walk / crash

1 We _____ along the beach when suddenly a huge wave _____ over the rocks.
2 By the time the plane actually _____, we _____ on the runway for an hour.
3 I _____ home, but the signal in the hostel _____ hopeless.
4 My sister _____ already _____ out to the rock by the time I _____ into the water.
5 I _____ on the bus, so I _____ my stop and _____ walk 5 km back to the campsite.
6 As I young child, I _____ a week with my aunt and uncle near the coast. I _____ shells and stones from our walks along the beach.

3 Find two sentences in which 'would' can replace 'used to'.

1 I look really different from my passport picture. I used to have long hair.
2 We used to build a campfire every night and tell ghost stories.
3 We have a house on the mainland now, but we used to live on a small island.
4 My family and all our cousins used to stay in a big farmhouse every summer.
5 My aunt has been all over Europe. She used to work as a tour guide.

4 Match the sentence halves (1–6) with (A–F).

1 I used to be petrified of flying,
2 We couldn't believe how crowded the Tokyo underground was,
3 My friend doesn't want to come on the adventure holiday,
4 I hated the cold showers at the campsite at first,
5 I couldn't eat the first curry I tried in Thailand,
6 The tourist season used to finish in September,

- **A** as she isn't used to cycling long distances.
- **B** but I'm not so scared of it now.
- **C** as I'm not used to eating spicy food.
- **D** but I got used to them quite quickly.
- **E** but people seem to travel all year now.
- **F** but we're getting used to it now.

5 Complete the chatroom posts with the correct form of the verbs. Use short forms where possible.

Ali Add message | Report

I [1] _____ (go) to Croatia last month to stay with a girl I met online, Nika. I [2] _____ (never/travel) abroad without my parents before and I really [3] _____ (miss) them. Nika and I [4] _____ (not/get on) from Day 1. It was strange because we [5] _____ (write) to each other for ages and we seemed to like the same things. I [6] _____ (be due/stay) three weeks and I lasted only one! 😞

Tanya Add message | Report

Last summer holidays I [7] _____ (go/have) a week in Boston with my best friend's family. I [8] _____ (look forward) to it for ages, but then suddenly my parents said no. They [9] _____ (used/have) us all together over the summer. I [10] _____ (already/make) loads of holiday plans, but dad [11] _____ (not think) it was fair on my brother! 😠