

**Before Reading**

**A. Look at the pictures. What problems do you think these people might have?**

**Reading Strategy:  
Read for cause and effect**

A cause is a person, action, or event that is responsible for a result, or effect. An effect is what happens as a result of the cause. Reading for causes and effects can help you understand a text.

- Read carefully.
- Look for words that signal results: *so*, *consequently*, *because*.
- Look for the causes of the actions or events.





## B. Read the text. Circle causes and underline effects.

### Hard Times

In 2013, I believed I was going to succeed. I was in high school, and I spent every moment I could rock climbing in our gym. On weekends, my dad would take me to a nearby mountain and we would practice. I became good at it, and I loved it. Then on December 6, 2013, I had a bad accident and the doctors told me I would probably not recover completely. Consequently, I was in the hospital for seven months, and it took another 12 months before I could walk without assistance. My coach tells me I'll never be able to climb again, so I need to find a different hobby. **(Sean, U.S.)**

About nine months ago my dad got a new job in the U.S. My entire family was excited about moving. But after I was here about a month or two, I wasn't so excited anymore, and I started to get a new perspective on my life. I don't really like the food in the U.S. I try to avoid going out with my friends for meals because I prefer my mom's cooking. I also find it hard to fit in at school. It seems to me American students give more attention to their friends, sports, and a lot of other things outside of academic studies. I guess it will be harder than I thought to fit in. **(Dimetrios, Greece)**

Things became rough for my family and me a few years ago when my dad lost his job. At first we thought he could find a new one, but he couldn't. Some of our relatives helped us, but my dad became really worried. He eventually became depressed, and he didn't seem to care. So, my mother and my older brothers got jobs to help our family. But my dad's depression developed into something worse. He went to live with my grandmother in a small town and now he is getting much better. **(Lunetta, Italy)**

## After Reading

### C. Complete the sentences based on the readings.

1. Sean had an \_\_\_\_\_, so he had to go to the hospital.
2. Sean can no longer \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Dimetrios's thoughts about living in the \_\_\_\_\_ have changed.
4. Dimetrios thinks American students are not very serious about \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Lunetta's \_\_\_\_\_ helped her family.
6. Lunetta's father is now feeling better living in a small \_\_\_\_\_.

### D. Create a diagram or picture that shows the causes and effects in each person's story.





**A. Read the text. Circle the expressions of time.**

Yesterday, I made a trip to my childhood home, and I remembered a lot of things. When I was young, my grandparents lived with us. Back then, it was a very happy time for all of us. In 2010, my grandparents both died. We sold our house and moved into an apartment in the city. When I visited the house, it looked completely different.

**B. Complete the sentences using an expression of time.**

(1) \_\_\_\_\_, I had a very big family, and we always spent holidays together. (2) \_\_\_\_\_, we went to Grandma's house. Other times, it was the house of an aunt or uncle. (3) \_\_\_\_\_, everyone is so busy. We don't get together anymore. Sometimes I think things were better (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Writing Strategy:  
Use expressions of time**

Verb tenses give information about time (past, present, future) in a text. Some words also give that information.

- present: *now, nowadays, sometimes, today, these days*
- recent past: *yesterday, last night, at 8 o'clock*
- distant past: *a few years ago, in the past, when I was young, back then, in 2008*