

EXERCISE 4 USED TO AND WOULD

GRAMMAR NOTE 4 Safiya Abbott and Carmen Peralta, who both got married fairly recently, now live in the same city in the United States. Complete their conversation with the correct forms of *used to* or *would* and the verbs in parentheses. Use *would* and contractions where possible.

SAFIYA: Carmen, how do you feel about life in the United States? How does it compare with living in Spain?

CARMEN: Well, it was really hard at first, but I'm feeling better about it now.

SAFIYA: How so? What's changed?

CARMEN: Well, I guess the first thing I'd say is that my life used to be 1. (my life / be) a lot more spontaneous. Everything wasn't as planned out as it is here. Like on Friday nights, for example, if my friends and I felt like having a get-together, we would organize 2. (we / organize) one on the spot. We always managed 3. (We / always manage) to find a bunch of people who wanted to go dancing or something. Here everything has to be scheduled and written on your calendar. But I've more or less gotten accustomed to that. And one really positive thing is that I've made different kinds of friends. The friends I have 4. (I / have) in Spain were all my age. Now I know people of all different ages.

SAFIYA: Good. So what else has changed for the better?

CARMEN: Well, my job is a lot more interesting now. In Spain, I was 5. (I / be) a bank teller. I had to go 6. (I / go) to work every morning just to earn a paycheck. It wasn't very exciting. Now I'm a Spanish teacher, and that's a challenge. Anyway, what about you? How's your life?

SAFIYA: Good overall. Until recently, I'd never had to work. I lived 7. (I / live) with my parents, and they supported me. Then I met Peter, and he supported me. But when we left Lebanon and moved to the United States, I started working. Now I'm working for a company downtown, and I really like it. It's fun to see people every day, and I've made a lot of new friends. I realize now that my life was 8. (my life / be) kind of boring. The other thing that's changed is where we live. I loved 9. (I / love) the house where I lived with lots of people from my family before I married Peter. Now it's just the two of us in a small apartment. At first, I missed the big house and my family, but now I like our apartment.

CARMEN: So how do you feel about being married?

SAFIYA: I love it.

CARMEN: Me, too. I wouldn't really change a thing. You know how everyone says how great it is to be single? I think 10. (I / think) so, too. But not now.