

# READING COMPREHENSION

## READING

- 1 Read the text quickly and choose the best title.
- a Living abroad is a lonely experience
  - b Moving home and moving country
  - c Teenagers make friends easily

I still remember it very clearly. It was in February 2003. I was thirteen years old and I was living in the USA, in a town called Newsom. C I knew something was wrong because my mum was usually at work at this time and my dad was never home until about 7 o'clock. At last my mum said, 'We know you love it here, and so do we, but your dad got a new job in Sweden.'

I was used to moving. My dad worked for an international organization and moving was part of the job. But now we'd been in the USA for five years, I had lots of friends and I loved school. I didn't want to move again. I was angry, but I had no choice!

The next day at school I told my friends I was moving on the 10th of March. They thought I was going to another town or state in America. They couldn't believe I was going to a different continent. But it was true and we started packing. I had to give away some of my things because I had too much to take. Gradually, I got used to the idea, but on the 9th of March I went round the neighbourhood saying goodbye and sobbing because I knew I was leaving my friends, my school and my life so far behind.

Now I'm seventeen and I've lived in another three countries since leaving America. We lived in Sweden for eight months and in Italy until I was sixteen. We don't have any plans to move right now, but if we do, I won't be upset. I've learned that although moving away from your friends and your home is challenging, there are good things about moving too. As I've got older, I've realized that these are all positive experiences.

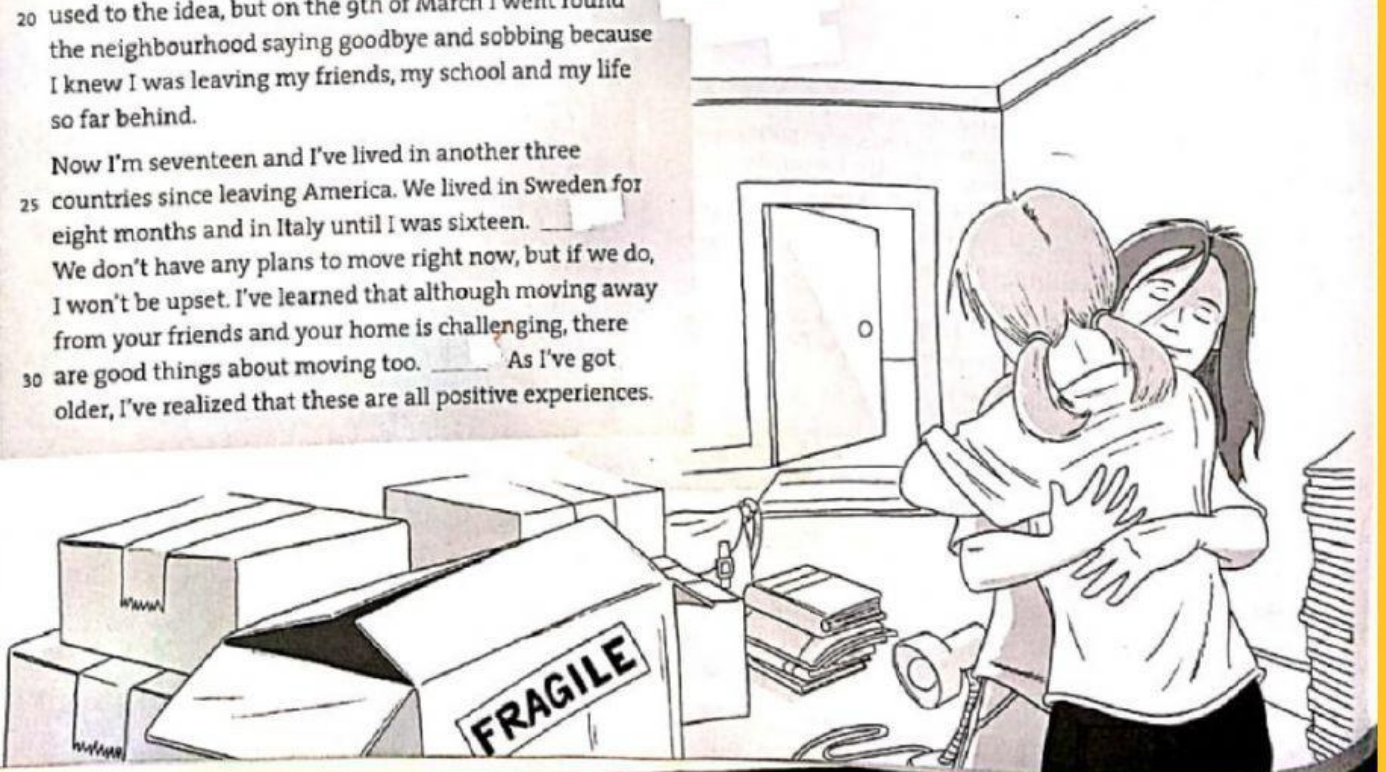
- 2 Read the text again. Six sentences have been removed from it. Choose one sentence for each gap 1-5 from the sentences A-F below.

- A Soon there were bags and boxes everywhere in the house.
- B You can have new adventures, explore different cultures and meet new people.
- C I came home from school to find my mum and dad in the living room waiting for me.
- D We then moved to Britain and we've been living here ever since.
- E At thirteen, I'd already lived in France, Germany and the USA.
- F They told me to sit down, so I did.

## Text vocabulary

- 3 Match the words from the text to the definitions.

- 1 gradually (line 19)
- 2 sobbing (line 21)
- 3 upset (line 28)
- 4 challenging (line 29)
- 5 cultures (Sentence B)
- a a difficult thing to do
- b sad
- c crying loudly
- d different ways that people live
- e slowly, after a while



## Inference

- What does the word "It" refer to? (line 1)
- What does the word "did" stay for? (letter F)
- What does the word "idea" refer to? (line 20)

## Grammar

1- Read the text again. Underline the verbs in Past Simple with red and the verbs in Present Perfect with blue. Do you know the meaning of all of them?

3- Complete the sentences with the verbs you highlighted.

You do not need to use all. You can change the tense if you need to.

a- My brother \_\_\_\_\_ for Apple for years.

b- I needed some distraction last night, so I \_\_\_\_\_  
the neighbourhood. I felt much better after that.

c- We \_\_\_\_\_ a lot from my literature teacher so far.

d- I pretended surprise when Anna told me she was going  
out with Peter. But I \_\_\_\_\_ all along.

e- I \_\_\_\_\_ in Buenos Aires for a while now.

f- Last night, my mum suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ she is getting old.

g- My friend, Matt, \_\_\_\_\_ to many different countries. Yesterday, he \_\_\_\_\_ me he is planning  
to go to Moscow next year.

h- Tina is going to be fired. The boss \_\_\_\_\_ enough with her arriving so late.

i- I \_\_\_\_\_ playing the piano since I was a child.

j- My cousin \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate his birthday last month, but we insister. We ended up having a great  
time.