Unit 5 Grammar

A. After reading the infographic on the use of the past tenses, complete the following exercises.

GRAMMAR

1 **a** Match sentence halves 1–3 with a–c. Which sentence do you find most shocking?

1 His teeth **had been chattering** so violently,	a when the storm finally died down.
2 **He had been shivering** so hard,	b he had really bad backache.
3 **They had been lying** there in the snow for two days	c he found pieces of tooth in his mouth.

b Look at the verbs in bold in 1a. Answer the questions.

1 Are they describing...
   a an action that was completed at a given point in time?
   b an action that was in progress over a period of time?
2 Which action happened first?
   a The ones in the first half of the sentences.
   b The ones in the second half of the sentences.

1 He **was waiting** on the corner when I got there.
2 He **had been waiting** for almost an hour and was really angry.
3 He **had waited** for almost an hour before he left.

b Match sentences 1–3 in 3a with descriptions a–c.

a Two actions that happened at the same time. We don't know how long the longer action lasted. _____
b Two actions that happened consecutively, one in response to the other. _____
c An action that was in progress for some time until a moment in the past. _____

5 Choose the correct options to complete the text.

Ernest Shackleton led an incredible expedition across the Antarctic from 1914–16. He (1)*had already completed / had already been completing* successful expeditions in the region, one with Scott, but no one (2)*had yet succeeded / had yet been succeeding* in crossing the continent. He and his crew (3)*had sailed / had been sailing* south for five months when their ship, the *Endurance*, got stuck in pack ice. They camped there for a while, but the force of the ice was so strong it crushed the ship. Shackleton (4)*was planning / had been planning* for this expedition for some time and he was not about to give up. He and his men unloaded their supplies and they set up camp on a piece of floating ice.