

# 22

## Verbs: *being* and *having*

### 1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Of course, there are some students being more willing to study than others.  
b Of course, there are some students who are more willing to study than others.
- 2 a In the West, we are used to having clean water which comes out of the tap.  
b In the West, we are used to have clean water which comes out of the tap.

The verbs *be* and *have* are not usually used in continuous forms (*being* and *having*) when they are a main verb with their basic meaning – *be* = to exist, *have* = to possess: *These people are among the most disadvantaged in society.* (not *are being*) *They have a loving family to look after them.* (not *are having*)

They are sometimes used as a main verb with a different meaning in a continuous form to emphasise a temporary state or action:

*She's having a shower at the moment – can she call you back?* (= showering)

*We're having a great time here in New York.* (= enjoying our visit)

*My boss is being awkward about giving me time off.* (= behaving in an awkward way)

★ *Being* + adjective is only used with adjectives which describe an attitude or behaviour (*honest, patient, etc.*), not those describing feelings (*happy, sad, etc.*).

Continuous forms can also be used after certain words and phrases, including: *be used to, enjoy, like, look forward to, be advantages to, be worth, a reason for, rather than, without*

*I'm not used to being away from my family.* (= not accustomed to it)

*There are advantages to having a flat in the city centre.*

### 2 Correct the mistake below.

I'm really looking forward to have a place of my own.



I'm really looking forward .....

### 3 Complete the sentences with the correct form of *be* or *have*.

- 1 Japan has a large number of people who ..... 65 or over.
- 2 He enjoys ..... the centre of attention.
- 3 People of my grandmother's generation ..... traditional values.
- 4 There are sometimes disadvantages to ..... a vegetarian.
- 5 When I left the house, he ..... his breakfast.
- 6 Each cottage ..... its own kitchen facilities.
- 7 I don't know how to tell her without ..... rude.
- 8 I think he's looking forward to ..... some time off work.