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 ..... .

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS