Past perfect; Gerunds and infinitives

1 Circle the correct alternative.

1 After we *went/had been* on a school trip together, we became close friends.
2 As soon as they *made up/had made up* with each other, they fell out again!
3 We had an argument because he *criticised/had criticised* my work.
4 By the end of the first week, she *made/had made* friends with all her classmates.
5 When they had beaten the other team, they *went/had gone* back to their secondary school.

2 Complete the sentences with the past simple or past perfect form of the verbs given.

1 After I ..... (fall out) with my best friend, I ..... (feel) very lonely.
2 By the time you ..... (wake up), I ..... (finish) all my homework.
3 Laura ..... (be) a bit angry because I ..... (get) a higher mark than her.
4 We ..... (not sleep) well the night before, so we ..... (go) to bed straight away.
5 Before he ..... (start) primary school, he ..... (learn) to read and write.

3 Circle the correct alternative.

If you enjoy (a) *to read/reading* fantasy novels, you probably know *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Chronicles of Narnia*. But did you know that the authors of these books, J.R.R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis, were close friends? They both taught at Oxford University, and both were interested in (b) *to learn/learning* about ancient legends. They had a lot in common and found it easy (c) *to talk/talking* to each other. They wanted (d) *to write/writing* their own novels and they formed a group with a circle of friends (e) *to discuss/discussing* their writing. (f) *Having/To have* close friends to help was important in both Tolkien's and Lewis's books, just as it was in their lives.

4 Complete the sentences with the gerund or infinitive form of the verbs given.

1 It's a lovely day and the sea is calm – let's go ..... (swim)
2 She decided ..... in more activities at her primary school. (take part)
3 He spends hours ..... crosswords. (do)
4 ..... relationships takes a lot of time and patience. (build)
5 It's easy ..... others! (criticise)
6 Are you interested in ..... our club? (join)
7 I really like ..... new friends. (make)

5 Circle the correct alternative.

In the past, teenagers (a) *used to talking/used to talk* to their friends on the home phone after school. They loved (b) *chat/chatting* for hours with their friends, who they (c) *were been/had been* at school with all day. And it wasn't strange (d) *to hang out/hang out* with their friends in the afternoon, too. But today, teenagers communicate with short texts and instant messages instead. Recent research shows that most teens find it easier (e) *to use/using* their smartphones (f) *for text/to text* friends than to call them or talk to them face to face. American psychologist Lori Evans thinks that communication (g) *didn't use to be/used to be* as artificial, because communication today mainly happens online.

However, other people think that technology can help to build relationships. For example, Evan was a very shy boy, but he used social-networking sites (h) *helping/to help* him feel less isolated. He started chatting with classmates who he (i) *didn't speak/hadn't spoken* to before. After just one week, his circle of friends (j) *had grown/grown* and he felt much happier.

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