

Past simple, past continuous and past perfect; *used to* and *would*

1 Circle the correct alternative.

- I felt/had felt nervous because I never was/had never been on a plane before.
- We read/had read a few travel books before we decided/had decided to visit Patagonia.
- She reserved/had reserved a place for her tent a few weeks before, but when she arrived/had arrived, the campsite was full.
- The area was/had been quite clean, as some responsible residents cleaned/had cleaned all the rubbish away.
- Did you ever find/Had you ever found the luggage you lost/had lost in the airport?
- I never thought/had never thought that travelling could harm the environment so dramatically before I read/had read that story in the paper.
- We planned/had planned a very detailed itinerary, but then we didn't have/hadn't had the time to visit all the places on our list.
- I managed/had managed to communicate with the local people because I learnt/had learnt a few words before the trip.

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

- I (look) at the monitor screen when a voice (announce) my train.
- As I (pack) my stuff, I (realise) that the suitcase was broken.
- While my Dad (get) into the car, he (see) the message on the windscreen.
- We (check in) our luggage when I (remember) I had left my passport at home.
- It (rain) heavily when they (set off) for the seaside.
- I (manage) to send a text before the plane (take off).

3 Complete with the past simple, past perfect or past continuous form of the verbs given.

- 'What (be) your hotel like?'
'Oh, it (be) amazing – I (never stay) in a five-star hotel before.'
- '..... (you have) a good night's sleep?'
'Oh, yes. I (still sleep) when everybody else (have) breakfast.'
- 'Why (you take) the train? It's such a long journey from Paris to London.'
'I know, but I (die) to go through the Channel Tunnel.'
- '..... (be) Tom excited about his trip to Mexico?'

'Of course. He (feel) as if a lifelong dream (come) true.'

- 'Why (the kids cry)?'
'Because they (get lost) in the safari park.'

4 Find the three sentences in which *used to* can be replaced with *would*.

- We used to go on backpacking expeditions holidays every year, but we haven't been on one for ages.
- This place used to be totally uncontaminated.
- Marie used to enjoy scuba diving when she was younger.
- I didn't use to plan our family holidays because I liked to surprise everyone.
- The writers said that she used to take inspiration from looking at nature.
- Mum used to speak Spanish very well when she was a student.

5 Choose the best answers to complete the text.

Once the fear of flying (1) to stop many people from getting on a plane. But then airline companies started to offer Fearless Flyer courses and travelling has never been easier. We can read lots of success stories of people who (2) they were never going to take a flight again, but then, after a ground session with a pilot, haven't stopped flying since. One of these stories reads as follows: 'I've always loved travelling, and this fear (3) to ruin my holidays as well as my friendships. Normally, my friends (4) and I (5) a train, or more than one. Once it took me two days to join my friends, and they weren't happy at all. Then I (6) about the Fearless Flyer course. I must confess that when I booked I thought I (7) my money, but I was wrong. The pilot and the flight assistant were amazing – they explained to us how to control our fear, how a plane flies, and then answered all our questions. My flight was the next day. I was a bit nervous, but the flight assistant was always telling us exactly what (8) at each moment. Then I did the relaxation techniques they (9) us the day before, and by the time the plane (10), all my fears had gone.'

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| 1 A would | B used | C use to |
| 2 A promised | B used to promise | C had promised |
| 3 A used to start | B was starting | C started |
| 4 A would fly | B were flying | C had flown |
| 5 A was taking | B would take | C had taken |
| 6 A heard | B had heard | C was hearing |
| 7 A wasted | B was wasting | C used to waste |
| 8 A happened | B had happened | C was happening |
| 9 A had taught | B taught | C were teaching |
| 10 A had took off | B would take off | C took off |