1 Which tenses can be used to:

1 set the scene of the story

2 describe the story's main events

3 clarify that one event happened before another

4 go back from the past and describe earlier activities

2 Read the story and fill in the gaps with the most appropriate form of the verbs in brackets.

I had spent (spend) a year off in France and _____ (look for) a partner there for months but I _____ (not find) anybody I could relate to, or who also liked me. Anyway, that all _____ (change) the day I _____ (leave) France. I _____ (wake up) early and _____ (take) the six-hour train journey to the airport. So far, so good. I got to the airport fine, no problem. But then chaos _____ (strike). When checking in at the airport I found out that my flight was full and I was on standby. They told me that I _____ (do) the online check-in wrong or something. I _____ (travel) a long time already, was really tired and that was the last thing I needed. Anyway, I _____ (wait) patiently at the gate, hoping to get my place, when the pilot of the plane _____ (arrive), looked at me and asked the stewards what _____ (happen). Can you believe he intervened and got a seat for me in the cockpit? Well, that's how we met. Incredible, isn't it? Funny thing is, he's not French, and I _____ (not go back) to France since.

Key:

1

1 past continuous

2 past simple

3 past perfect

4 past perfect continuous

2

Had been looking, hadn't found, changed, left, woke, took, struck, had done, had been travelling, waited, arrived, had happened, haven't gone/been back