

*Put the verbs in the following text into the appropriate tense.*

### **Thomas Cook – the inventor of package holidays**

The inventor of the “package tour” was Thomas Cook. Born in Leicester in 1808, Cook was a preacher who **1**..... (go) around the country telling people about the evils of alcohol. He **2**..... (believe) that people would be less tempted by drink if they could get out of the cities and into the countryside on their days off.

In 1841, while he **3**..... (travel) around the North, he **4**..... (have) a brainwave. He **5**..... (reserve) an entire train to go from Leicester to Loughborough and back again in one day. Cook **6**..... (organise) lots of activities for his customers, and the tickets, which he **7**..... (sell) for one shilling (five pence), included everything – travel, food and entertainment. The ‘excursion’ as he called it **8**..... (be) a great success - he **9**..... (sell) more than 500 tickets.

As the railway network **10**..... (spread) across Britain, Cook’s excursions **11**..... (become) more ambitious. By the mid 1840s, he **12**..... (conduct) tours to Scotland, Liverpool, Newcastle and London. By 1855 Cook **13**..... (organise) tours for almost fifteen years and felt that he **14**..... (have) enough experience to start venturing overseas. He **15**..... (begin) with continental Europe, but soon **16**..... (extend) his tours to North America, Egypt and India.

By the time of his death in 1893, the name Cook **17**..... (become) synonymous with guided tours and what **18**..... (begin) as a modest day-trip to the countryside **19**..... (turn) into a worldwide business.

*The following text describes the feelings of Jason Hunter, a successful bond dealer, on reaching the age of thirty. Complete the text by putting the verbs in brackets into the correct tense. Choose from the present perfect simple and continuous, simple past and used to forms. Make any necessary changes to word order.*

‘I don’t mind being 30 at all except that in work terms it does mean I pretty much **1**..... (reach) the last stage of my career as a bond dealer. In the old days it **2**..... (be) possible to carry on until you **3**..... (be) 40, but in today’s market people burn themselves out more quickly. The pressure on the trading floor is unbelievable and since my late twenties **4**..... (find) it increasingly difficult to cope with the stress. And I don’t really want to any more! Work **5**..... (be) the most important thing in my life but that is changing as I get older.

For example, I **6**..... (get married) recently and in fact I just **7**..... (return) from my honeymoon in Europe. While we **8**..... (be) there, we **9**..... (go) to the opera and ballet several times and I **10**..... (love) it. I **11**..... (not have) much time for leisure and cultural activities up to now, but that’s going to change from now on.

I also **12**..... (change) in that I now try and see more of my parents than I **13**..... (do) when I was younger. I hardly ever **14**..... (see) my father when I was a child because he always **15**..... (be) away at work, so in the last couple of years I **16**..... (try) to make up for lost time.

When I **17**..... (reach) my late twenties I **18**..... (feel) the need to settle down and I **19**..... (be) lucky enough to meet the right person. I really feel that I **20**..... (mature) over the last couple of years and I think I can face the future with a reasonable sense of optimism.’