

### 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.

### 3 Think about something that happened to you (or your family/friends). Use of these ideas or your own:

- An important event in your life
- An interesting travel experience
- A funny story

Think of the background to your story and any effects it still has for you now (i.e. Use **various** tenses when telling your story). Tell your story. You can make some notes about your story but be prepared to **tell** it rather than read it!

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