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

1 Circle the correct alternative.

1 I felt/had felt nervous because I never was/had never been on a plane before.
2 We read/had read a few travel books before we decided/had decided to visit Patagonia.
3 She reserved/had reserved a place for her tent a few weeks before, but when she arrived/had arrived, the campsite was full.
4 The area was/had been quite clean, as some responsible residents cleaned/had cleaned all the rubbish away.
5 Did you ever find/Had you ever found the luggage you lost/had lost in the airport?
6 I never thought/had never thought that travelling could harm the environment so dramatically before I read/had read that story in the paper.
7 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.
8 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.

1 I looked/look at the monitor screen when a voice announced/announced my train.
2 As I packed/packing my stuff, I realised/realised that the suitcase was broken.
3 While my Dad got/get into the car, he saw/saw the message on the windscreen.
4 We checked/check in our luggage when I remembered/remembered I had left my passport at home.
5 It rained/rain heavily when they set/off for the seaside.
6 I managed/manage to send a text before the plane took off/take off.

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

1 ‘What was/be your hotel like?’
   ‘Oh, it was/be amazing – I never stayed/never stay in a five-star hotel before.’
2 ‘Did you have/have a good night’s sleep?’
   ‘Oh, yes. I still sleep/still slept when everybody else had/have breakfast.’
3 ‘Why are you take the train? It’s such a long journey from Paris to London.’
   ‘I know, but I died/die to go through the Channel Tunnel.’
4 ‘Was/be Tom excited about his trip to Mexico?’

‘Of course. He felt/had felt as if a lifelong dream would/come true.’
5 ‘Why are you cry?’
   ‘Because they got/are getting lost in the safari park.’

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

1 We used to go on backpacking expeditions holidays every year, but we haven’t been on one for ages.
2 This place used to be totally uncontaminated.
3 Marie used to enjoy scuba diving when she was younger.
4 I didn’t use to plan our family holidays because I liked to surprise everyone.
5 The writers said that she used to take inspiration from looking at nature.
6 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) would/used 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) used to/would never go 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) never was/had never been to ruin my holidays as well as my friendships. Normally, my friends (4) used to/would always promise 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) used to/would have never dared about the Fearless Flyer course. I must confess that when I booked I thought I (7) was/would take off 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) used to/can be done at each moment. Then I did the relaxation techniques they (9) would/used to take off us the day before, and by the time the plane (10) take off/used to, all my fears had gone.’

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