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Lesson A

Interviews

1 Meet Alex. . . .

Grammar Claire is interviewing Alex, a successful photographer, for a news website. Circle the correct verb forms to complete the conversation.

Claire When did you start / were you starting taking photos?

Alex Gosh, I'm taking / I've been taking photos since I was about six.

Claire Really? So, what kind of camera did you use / have you used back then?

Alex Well, when I was young, my uncle showed / was showing me how to use this old camera and how to develop the prints. I still use it!

Claire That's amazing. So, what projects do you work / are you working on currently?

Alex I just started this nature series. I'm taking / I was taking photos of trees. You know, trees that have interesting shapes.

Claire That's great. How many tree photos have you taken / have you been taking so far?

Alex A lot. Hundreds.

Claire Really? And how has your work changed? I mean, what kind of photography were you doing / have you been doing five years ago?

Alex Well, I was working / 've worked on some color portraits for a competition. I didn't win / wasn't winning, but it was a good experience.



2 About you 1

Grammar Write the questions using a correct verb form. Then write true answers.

- What / you take / photos of lately ? What have you been taking photos of lately?
I've been taking photos of my friends and interesting buildings in my hometown.
- How long / you / have / a camera ? _____
- your parents / take / many photos of you when you were a child ? _____
- you ever / be / to a photographer's studio ? _____
- When / you last take a photo ? _____
- What / social networking sites / you / post / your photos on currently ? _____

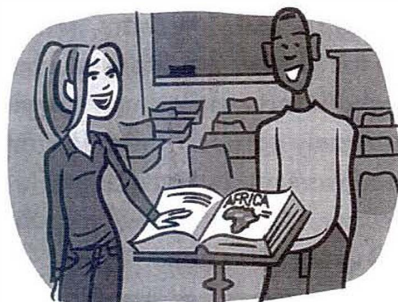
3 Questions and answers

Grammar Complete each conversation with the correct form of the verb given. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

1. (watch)

Ben What kinds of movies _____ have _____ you _____ been watching _____ lately?

Kumi Well, mostly I _____ horror movies. I usually _____ three or four horror movies a month. Actually, I _____ a great horror movie last night.



2. (live)

Ana _____ you ever _____ in another country?

Joel Yes, I _____ in two other countries. I _____ in Canada for three years after I left college, and I _____ in Kenya until last June.

3. (eat)

Christa You look great. What's your secret?

Jalila Thanks. I _____ a lot of vegetables and whole grains lately. And I always _____ six small meals a day. I just _____ a salad for lunch.



4. (write)

Vito How long _____ you _____ poetry?

Kim Um, I guess I _____ poetry for about four years. I _____ almost every day if I can. Yesterday, I _____ for almost three hours nonstop!

4 About you 2

Grammar Answer the questions with true information.

- How long have you been studying English? I've been studying English for five years.
- Have you ever lived in another country? _____
- What kinds of music are you listening to these days? _____
- What kinds of TV shows do you watch? _____
- What did you do during your last vacation? _____
- What were you doing at this time last week? _____

1 Dream jobs

Grammar
and
vocabulary

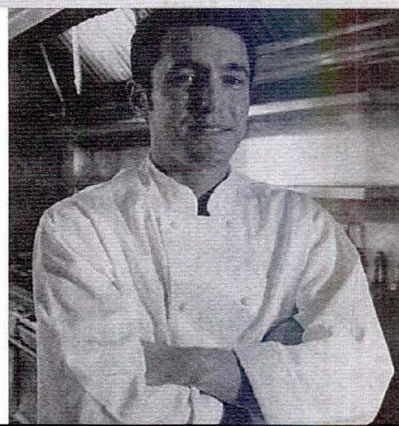
Circle the correct words to complete the paragraphs.

1. LEIGH HUDSON tells us how she **seemed** / **ended up** / **decided** being an editor.

Well, after I **imagined** / **finished** / **bothered** taking my law school entrance exams, I still wasn't sure if I wanted to be a lawyer. I already had a degree in English and was **considering** / **expecting** / **agreeing** training to be a journalist. Then one day, I saw an ad for an editorial assistant on a publishing company's website, and I **offered** / **expected** / **decided** to apply for it. After the interview, the manager said I was right for the job and **offered** / **ended up** / **considered** to pay me a good salary. I immediately **agreed** / **finished** / **missed** to take the job. Anyway, I've been working at the company for over five years, and now I'm a senior editor. I absolutely love my job – I can't **agree** / **expect** / **imagine** doing anything else!

2. GEORGE ALLEN explains how he became a chef.

I wasn't really **agreeing** / **missing** / **planning on** being a chef. I **spent** / **bothered** / **decided** four years in college studying electrical engineering. After I graduated, I **agreed** / **happened** / **started** working at an engineering firm and had a great salary, but a lot of responsibility. After six months, I **intend** / **remember** / **miss** thinking, "Am I really happy being an electrical engineer?" I decided I wasn't happy at all, so I quit my job and applied to a local cooking school. After I finished training, I opened a small restaurant. I've never **ended up** / **missed** / **offered** working at my old job – not once. And that was 15 years ago now!



3. CELIA MENDEZ tells us how she became a dancer.



Well, a few years ago, my friends and I **happened** / **seemed** / **missed** to go on vacation to a Caribbean resort that put on a great show every night with singing and dancing and everything. I was taking dance classes at the time, and I was actually **finishing** / **bothering** / **considering** becoming a dancer. Anyway, one night, the resort had a talent competition for the guests. I didn't **imagine** / **happen** / **bother** to sign up. But my friends said, "Celia, this **seems** / **spends** / **expects** to be a perfect opportunity for you. You're such a good dancer. You should do it!" Well, to make a long story short, I won the talent competition, and the resort offered me a position as a dancer! I never **happened** / **expected** / **ended up** to be a successful professional dancer, least of all at a Caribbean resort! Dreams really do come true!

2 How I ended up living in New York City

Grammar
and
vocabulary

Complete the paragraph with the correct form of the verbs.

A lot of people ask me how I ended up living (live) in New York City. Well, actually, I wasn't planning on _____ (be) here. It's just that the opportunity came up when my friend Samuela happened _____ (move) here for college. She needed a roommate, so I agreed _____ (share) an apartment with her in the city. We were only in the apartment a couple of months when Samuela started _____ (miss) home. She said she missed _____ (be) with her family. I guess she couldn't imagine _____ (stay) three more years and _____ (be) happy. So, she decided _____ (complete) the semester, and then she transferred to a college back home. Anyway, I kept the apartment and found a great job. I've been here for over six years now, but Samuela and I are still great friends. We've never stopped _____ (email) each other, and we call each other all the time. We just live in different cities – that's all!



3 About you

Grammar
and
vocabulary

Answer the questions with true information.

- Where do you think you'll end up living in a few years?
I think I'll end up living in Paris after I finish school.
- What are you planning on doing when you finish this English course?

- Have you started reading a new book recently?

- What's something fun you remember doing as a child?

- Have you ever decided to do something and then regretted it?

- Do you expect to get a good grade in this class?

- What do you intend to do this weekend?

- Is there anything you can't imagine doing in life?
