

Read the text about a person who moved to the UK a few years ago.

When I was 23, I **decided to move** to the UK. I **hoped to get** a good job and find a nice place to live. My friend, who was already living in the UK, **offered to let** me stay at his place until I found a place of my own. After the first week, I realised I **needed to improve** my English. At school, I had **learnt to speak** some English, and after a few weeks in the UK, I **started having** English lessons at the local college. I **wanted to understand** everything I heard, but sometimes I **pretended to understand** when I didn't really! I **spent** a lot of time **reading**, and also **watching** TV in English, which helped me a lot. I **enjoy going** to college and **meeting** new people.

My friend **helped me to find** a job, and after a month I found a place that was **cheap to rent**. One day, I **forgot to lock** my front door, but I **didn't need to worry** because my area is pretty safe.

I **promised to phone** my family at least once a week. I still **remember to do** this, but I **would like to see** them more in person.

After a few more months, I **decided to buy** a car. It's **not easy to drive** on the left, because in my country people drive on the right. Now I **don't mind taking** my car anywhere.

Although I really **enjoy living** in the UK, I still **want to change** a few things. For example, I'm in a big city at the moment, but I'd **prefer to** live somewhere much quieter. I don't know if it's more **expensive to live** in a village, but I will **try to find out**.

1) Find the *verb patterns* in the text. Some **verbs** are followed by **to** and some are followed by **ing**.

Tip:

When we don't know if the person is male or female, we could use '**he or she**', but in informal English, it's more natural to use '**they**', even though we are only talking about one person.

2) Look at the text again.

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a) The person made the decision to move to the UK when they were 23.
- b) The person could speak some English before they arrived in the UK.
- c) The person didn't do anything to improve their English.
- d) The person went to college but also did other things to improve their English.
- e) The person lived with their friend for a year.
- f) The person found a job on the internet.
- g) The person doesn't really like big cities.

answers: a) T b) T c) F d) T e) F f) F g) T

3) Think about the time you moved to the UK and what you did at the beginning.
You're going to write some paragraphs like the text we have just read.

Try to use some of these expressions in your writing.
Remember that some of them are followed by **ing**.

When I was... I decided to...	I hoped to... and...	
I realised I needed to...	I started...	I wanted to...
I spent time...	I enjoy... and...	...helped me to...
...was cheap to...	One day, I forgot to...	I didn't need to...
I promised to...	I remember to...	I would like to...
I decided to...	It's not easy to...	I don't mind...
I really enjoy...	I still want to...	I'd prefer to...
It's expensive to...	I will try to...	

When you have finished, check your writing for mistakes or anything you'd like to change. If you take a screenshot or print your work off, you can give it to your tutor.