

## 2B GRAMMAR the past: habitual events and specific incidents

- a Read the story and put the verbs in the correct form. There is sometimes more than one answer.



I started school at the age of four at my local elementary school. I <sup>1</sup> 'd been looking forward (look forward) to starting school for some time because I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) any siblings, so I thought it was going to be the perfect opportunity to make new friends and have fun. On the first day, I <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (play) with my new classmates when the teacher <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (interrupt) us and asked us to pay attention. We all stopped what we had been doing and she introduced us to the class pet—Hammy the Hamster. He was the pet I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_ (want) but <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ (allow) to have.

The teacher told us that each child—in strict alphabetical order—could take Hammy home with them for one weekend and then bring him back the following Monday.

I could hardly wait for it to be my weekend. I <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to school very early every day and I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (feed) and play with him. I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not want) to let the other children near him because I wanted Hammy to be my new best friend!

After three weeks, my weekend finally arrived. My mom hadn't been too excited about having a hamster in the house but I'd been very persuasive—I <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very persistent as a child—and finally she agreed. I was so happy.

Saturday morning was a beautiful, sunny day so I thought Hammy would appreciate a morning walk in the yard. However, as I <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (take) him out of his cage, he <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (bite) me, I <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) him, and Hammy ran away!

I <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) a child who <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) very often, but on that occasion I spent all weekend crying and looking for Hammy. Sadly, though, Hammy <sup>16</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) forever and I never saw him again.

The worst was yet to come, however. On Monday I had to go back to school with an empty cage. As I <sup>17</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) to the teacher what <sup>18</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (happen), I realized that the rest of the class was looking at me with hatred in their eyes; after all, I had lost the adored class pet! Nobody <sup>19</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) to me for at least a week and I remember it being the worst feeling I <sup>20</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (experience) in the four short years of my life.

### ACTIVATION

- b Think of a time in your childhood when you did something wrong. Write a paragraph describing the incident.