



# ENGLISH

## Chapter 11 Session B

**5th**  
SECONDARY

**CAREER PATHS**  
Present Perfect Progressive



 **SACO OLIVEROS**



Dear Lily,

I'm sorry I haven't written sooner! I'd been meaning to write to you last week, but I could never seem to find the time. Anyways, let me tell you all about what it's been like as an au pair here.

First off, Corfu is beautiful and the family I'm staying with have an amazing property in a town called Gastouri. The family stays in the main building, and I have my own separate little guest house around the back. Originally, they'd been planning on renting it out, but thankfully they



changed their minds! The family is actually very small – just the daughter Sophia who's 8, the mother Olga, and the grandmother who everyone calls Yiayia. They're all lovely and I couldn't have asked for a better position.

It's hard to say what I do exactly as every day is different, but this is my usual schedule: First, around 7am I get up and get ready. I love this time of day when everything's quiet. Then, at 8am I wake up Sophia and get her ready – making her breakfast, packing her lunch, and walking her to school. Then, I tidy up a bit before taking some time for myself.

You remember how before I came here I'd been studying Greek? Well, it turns out I didn't learn very much, so now I'm studying hard in my free time! Then, I usually have a late lunch with Yiayia who is an amazing cook. Olga is at work during the



day, so it's just the two of us. My favorite dish is her pastitso, a kind of Greek lasagna which is delicious. After that, it's usually time to get Sophia from school. We play games outside, paint pictures, do gardening together – all kinds of fun stuff. By that time, Olga is usually home and we all have dinner. Finally, I help Sophia with her English and math homework, and I put her to bed around 10pm. Anyways, I should stop now, but I'll definitely write again soon.


Lots of love,  
Abigail





## READING 2

### Life as an Au Pair: A Personal Account

- 1  43 Read and listen to the letter. What does it mean to be an au pair?

Someone, especially a young woman, who lives in a foreign country ...

- a ☐ with a group of friends and works as a language teacher at a school.
- b ☐ with a family and helps with the children and housework.



**2** Read the letter again. Then write T (*true*) or F (*false*).

- a ☐ Abigail shares a house with a family in Corfu.
- b ☐ Abigail has responsibilities at different times throughout the day.
- c ☐ Yiayia is teaching Abigail how to cook.
- d ☐ Abigail tutors Sophia in certain subjects.

**TIP**

*Anyway* is an adverb, and therefore should not be used in plural in formal language. However, "anyways" is pretty much used in informal language in American English.



## Past Perfect Progressive

- 1 Look at the following sentences from the letter. Circle the verb form which indicates what happened first and underline the verb form which indicates what happened second.
  - a I'd been meaning to write to you last week, but could never seem to find the time.
  - b They'd been planning on renting it out, but thankfully they changed their minds.
  - c Before I came here I'd been studying Greek.

**2** Choose the correct information about the past perfect progressive. Use the sentences in activity 1 to help you.

**a** The past perfect progressive is used to talk about:

☐

temporary action and situations.

☐

permanent actions and situations.



**b** The past perfect progressive is used to emphasize:

☐ completed events and actions.

☐ how long something had been happening (the duration).

**c** The structure of the past perfect progressive is:

☐ *had + been + -ing* form.

☐ *had + past participle*.

**3** Complete the sentences with the past perfect or the past perfect progressive form of the verbs in parentheses. Use the past perfect progressive form when possible.

- a** I was annoyed because I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (wait) all day for the company  
to call me.
- b** The employees were exhausted because  
they \_\_\_\_\_ (answer)  
phone calls all day.

- c** My brother was hoping for that job, but they \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ (hire) someone for it.
- d** How long \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in the US before you found a job?
- e** The band \_\_\_\_\_ (not play) long when the sound system stopped working.

**4** Use the prompts to make sentences that are true for you. Use the past perfect progressive.

**a** I \_\_\_\_\_ (live)  
in \_\_\_\_\_ for  
\_\_\_\_\_ years when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**b** I \_\_\_\_\_ (study)  
English for \_\_\_\_\_ before  
I could \_\_\_\_\_

**c** I \_\_\_\_\_  
long before any of my friends.

**d** I was disappointed when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (hope) to \_\_\_\_\_

## Adjective + Noun Collocations

**1** Rearrange the letters to complete the collocations.

**a** aedacim \_\_\_\_\_ career

**b** omisrgnip \_\_\_\_\_ career

**c** xseenivte \_\_\_\_\_ work

**d** iagnrwred \_\_\_\_\_ work

**e** dctnee \_\_\_\_\_ job

**f** aedd-nde \_\_\_\_\_ job

**2** Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

distinguished professional physical  
unpaid ideal steady

- a** Juan gave up his dreams of going to the Olympics in order to focus on having a \_\_\_\_\_ career.
- b** To be honest, it's not my \_\_\_\_\_ job, but at least it pays the bills.
- c** It's fine when you're young and single, but doing \_\_\_\_\_ work when you have a family is unrealistic.

- d** He'd had a long and \_\_\_\_\_ career as a diplomat when he finally decided to retire.
- e** Many freelancers say that they miss the stability of a \_\_\_\_\_ job.
- f** As you get older, having to do \_\_\_\_\_ work becomes increasingly difficult.

**3** Match the collocations from activities 1 and 2 with what people say.

**a** I present you with the lifetime achievement award for your contributions to Colombian literature.

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**b** As a comedian, a lot of the time I do shows just to get practice and so that people will see me perform.

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**c** Can you believe it – they've offered me the job! This is a dream come true!

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**d** Wanda had taken a lot of classes over the years, but she still always felt excited on the first day of the semester.

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**e** It's going to require a significant amount of time and effort to get this presentation ready, but I think we can do it.

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**4** Match the sentence beginnings with the endings.

- a ☐ He gave up a promising career
- b ☐ Mitch was happy with his dead-end job
- c ☐ Volunteering will never make you rich,
- d ☐ She began her professional career
- e ☐ For many people a steady job becomes more appealing

- 1 but it is rewarding work nonetheless.
- 2 as a lawyer, focusing on tax law.
- 3 because he had never been very ambitious.
- 4 in order to take care of his children.
- 5 as they get older and want more stability.

## 5 Answer the questions for you.

- a** What careers involving physical work can you think of? Would you like to do any of these?

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- b** Do you think that unpaid work should be legal? Why / Why not?

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- c** Which is more important to you, a steady job or rewarding work? Why?

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