**Reading**

1. **Read the text. Match the subtitles with the paragraphs.**
2. **Our au pair**
3. I enjoy travelling abroad
4. Most enriching part of my life
5. My host family
6. My daily life
7. Putting our son into good hands
8. We liked her immediately
9. **We learned some Spanish**

**“Wonderful memories of our au pair” – from Jenny, a host mum from England**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Going back to work full time, we decided to host an au pair girl to help us take care of our three-year-old and the household. After dealing with a pile of paperwork, tons of emails, and numerous Skype meetings, we finally made a decision.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

We chose Anita from Spain because we wanted to learn more about Spanish culture and customs as well as learning the language. She was 19 years old, very mature and calm. We fell in love with her from the very start.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In the beginning our Spanish au pair did not speak English very well, but she learned really quickly. By the end of her time with us she could speak English fluently. She lived with us for nine months. During her stay she prepared Spanish dishes for us and taught us some Spanish.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Anita took care of our son and helped with minor household chores. She was really hard-working and proactive and she did the housework without being asked. She soon became part of our family. She joined in with our leisure activities and came on holiday with us. And we would have interesting conversations over dinner about our different cultures. At the weekends, we let her decide how she wanted to use her time. She spent most of her free time travelling around England with other au pairs. We’re still in contact with Anita and one day she’ll visit us again.

**“My first time overseas” – from Kate, an au pair from Canada**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I’ve been in Salzburg, Austria for three months now taking care of three little boys aged five to ten, for a single mum. My host mother is amazing and a lot of fun, and her children won me over the moment we met. They’re well-behaved and I love hearing them learn new English phrases – they’re like little sponges, they learn so quickly. They’ll soon speak English better than their mum.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

After I took some time to settle in, they told me what my chores were. My main tasks are to look after the boys when they come home from school. I prepare afternoon snacks for them, play with them, help the oldest one with his homework and do some light housework such as cleaning up downstairs, sweeping the front drive, doing the boys’ laundry when needed and of course keeping the floors clean. The floors get dirty all the time because the family don’t wear slippers. They only take their shoes off when they go upstairs to their bedrooms.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sunday is my day off and every third week I have a long weekend. From Friday afternoon till Sunday evening I’m allowed to do whatever I want. It’s my stress-free time. I travel around Europe with other au pair friends I meet through the Internet. It’s so easy to get from one country to another. I’ve only been here in Austria for three months and I’ve already visited Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Slovenia. I’m planning a trip with my friends to Paris next month!

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Living with the host family has its ups and downs, but if the next six months are anything like the first three, I know I’ll never regret making the bravest and most exciting decision in my life.

1. **Replace the underlined phrase with the words from the text.**
2. I work eight hours a day. I work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. We finally decided. We finally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. We immediately liked her. We liked her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. At first her English was poor. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her English was poor.
6. She became a member of our family. She became \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. We still keep in touch. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.