

## Read the text and choose the correct verb form.

I have **been / was** a star for the past five years and I have loved every minute of it. This year I **made / have made** two CDs and I have travelled to many different countries. The most interesting place I **visited / have visited** so far was Sydney as the scenery is brilliant. Of course, life wasn't always so great. When I was thirteen years old I **wanted / have wanted** to become famous so I **have decided /decided** to learn how to sing. I joined a local music school and **have had / had** singing lessons. It was difficult at first but I soon got used to it. At the time, my friends **thought/ have thought** I was crazy, but now they all see that I was right. Last year I **made/have made** my sixth record and earned lots of money. I am so happy that I **had /have had** those singing lessons all those years ago.

- A) Which sentence means she is still a star now?  
a) "I have been a star for five years."  
b) "I was a star for five years."  
B) Underline the words which show **time** or **period of time**.  
C) Write three sentences which describe your life experiences.

## Letter-writing

Everyone seems to have different views on the TV talent shows which find new stars. Read the short letter below to a magazine and decide on the writer's opinion of fame shows on television.

When we write it is important to explain what you want to say. We can do this with linking words.

**Dear Sir,**

As far as I'm concerned shows to find talent are awful for a number of reasons.

**First of all**, they create the idea that it is easy to become famous. **Furthermore**, many young people feel that they do not need to study hard at school **because** they can succeed in life if they win a TV talent competition. **However**, this is not to say that some people do succeed in the competition and go on to become very famous.

**In conclusion**, I would say that although they are entertaining, young people should stick with the traditional way of doing well in life and not be fooled by thinking they can become overnight stars.

Christina.

In pairs, look at the linking words below and match the five groups of linking words and phrases below to the five groups in the table.

List ideas

Introduce reasons

Add more reasons

Opposite points

Conclusion

- a) but, although, however  
b) also, furthermore, what's more  
c) because, so, therefore  
d) to conclude, to sum up, in conclusion  
e) firstly, secondly, finally

**Look at the ideas in Christina's letter. Write a paragraph about your views on talent shows on TV. Try to use the linking words above.**