

First Week***The Simple Present and the Present Continuous***

Put the verbs in brackets into the simple present or the present continuous tense.

- 1 Cuckoos (not build) nests. They (use) the nests of other birds.
- 2 You can't see Tom now: he (have) a bath.
- 3 He usually (drink) coffee but today he (drink) tea.
- 4 What she (do) in the evenings? ~
She usually (play) cards or (watch) TV.
- 5 I won't go out now as it (rain) and I -(not have)an umbrella.
- 6 The last train (leave) the station at 11.30.
- 7 He usually (speak) so quickly that I (not understand) him.
- 8 Ann (make) a dress for herself at the moment. She(make) all her own clothes.
- 9 Hardly anyone (wear) a hat nowadays.
- 10 I'm afraid I've broken one of your coffee cups. — Don't worry. I (not like) that set anyway.
- 11 I (wear) my sunglasses today because the sun is very strong.
- 12 Tom can't have the newspaper now because his aunt (read) it.
- 13 I'm busy at the moment. I (redecorate) the sitting room.
- 14 The kettle (boil) now. Shall I make the tea?
- 15 You (enjoy) yourself or would you like to leave now? - I (enjoy) myself very much. I (want) to stay to the end.

The simple present and the present continuous

Put the verbs in brackets into the simple present or present continuous tense.

1 What Tom (think) of the Budget? -

He (think) it most unfair. ~

I (agree) with him.

2 What this one (cost)?-

It (cost) forty pence.

3 You (hear) the wind? It (blow) very strongly tonight.

4 You (see) my car keys anywhere? -

No, I (look) for them but I (not see) them.

5 He never (listen) to what you say. He always (think) about something else.

6 This book is about a man who (desert) his family and (go) to live on a Pacific island.

7 You (understand) what the lecturer is saying? ~

No, I (not understand) him at all.

8 What you (have) for breakfast usually? ~

I usually (eat) a carrot and (drink) a glass of cold water.

9 When the curtain (rise) we (see) a group of workers. They (picket) factory gate.

10 Why you (walk) so fast today? You usually (walk) quite slowly. ~

I (hurry) because I (meet) my mother at 4 o'clock and she (not like) to be kept waiting.

11 I (wish) that dog would lie down. He (keep) jumping up on my lap. ~

I (think) he (want) to go for a walk.

12 You (recognize) that man? ~

I (think) that I have seen him before but I (not remember) his name

13 Look at that crowd. I (wonder) what they (wait) for.

14 This message has just arrived and the man (wait) in case you (want) to send a reply.

15 Stop! You (not see) the notice? ~

I (see) it but I can't read it because I (not wear) my glasses. What it (say)? ~

It (say) 'These premises are patrolled by guard dogs'.

Second Week:***The Simple Past and the Past Continuous***

Put the verbs in brackets into the simple past or the past continuous tense.

- 1 I lit the fire at 6.00 and it (burn) brightly when Tom came in at 7.00.
- 2 When I arrived the lecture had already started and the professor (write) on the overhead projector.
- 3 I (make) a cake when the light went out. I had to finish it in the dark.
- 4 I didn't want to meet Paul so when he entered the room I (leave).
- 5 Unfortunately when I arrived Ann just (leave), so we only had time for a few words.
- 6 He (watch) TV when the phone rang. Very unwillingly he (turn) down the sound and (go) to answer it.
- 7 He was very polite. Whenever his wife entered the room he (stand) up.
- 8 The admiral (play) bowls when he received news of the invasion. He (insist) on finishing the game.
- 9 My dog (walk) along quietly when Mr Pitt's Pekinese attacked him.
- 10 When I arrived she (have) lunch. She apologized for starting without me but said that she always (lunch) at 12.30.
- 11 He always (wear) a raincoat and (carry) an umbrella when he walked to the office.
- 12 What you (think) of his last book? ~ I (like) it very much.
- 13 I (share) a flat with him when we were students. He always (complain) about my untidiness.
- 14 He suddenly (realize) that he (travel) in the wrong direction.
- 15 He (play) the guitar outside her house when someone opened the window and (throw) out a bucket of water.

The Simple Past and the Past Continuous

Put the verbs in brackets into the simple past or past continuous tense.

1 Mr Smith never (wake) up in time in the mornings and always (get) into trouble for being late; so one day he (go) to town and (buy) an alarm clock.

2 To get home he (have to) go through a field where a bad-tempered bull usually (graze).

3 This bull normally (not chase) people unless something (make) him angry. Unfortunately, as Mr Smith (cross) the field, his alarm clock (go) off.

4 This (annoy) the bull, who immediately (begin) to chase Mr Smith.

5 Mr Smith (carry) an open umbrella as it (rain) slightly. He (throw) the umbrella to the ground and (run) away as fast as he could.

6 The bull (stop) and (begin) to attack the umbrella. While he (do) this Mr Smith escaped.

7 When he (awake) she (sit) by the window. She (look) at something in the street, but when he (call) her she (turn) and (smile) at him.

8 Why you (interrupt) me just now? I (have) a very interesting conversation with Mr Pitt.

9 The murderer (carry) the corpse down the stairs when he (hear) a knock on the door.

10 When I (look) through your books I (notice) that you have a copy of Murder in the Cathedral.

11 As they (walk) along the road they (hear) a car coming from behind them. Tom (turn) round and (hold) up his hand. The car (stop).

12 When I (arrive) at the station Mary (wait) for me. She (wear) a blue dress and (look) very pretty. As soon as she (see) me she (wave) and (shout) something, but I couldn't hear what she (say) because everybody (make) such a noise.

13 The prisoner (escape) by climbing the wall of the garden where he (work). He (wear) blue overalls and black shoes.

14 She said that the car (travel) at 40 k.p.h. when it (begin) to skid.

15 She said that she (not like) her present flat and (try) to find another.

Third Week

The Present Perfect and the Simple Past

Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect or the simple past tense

1 This is my house. ~

How long you (live) here? ~ I (live) here since 1970.

2 He (live) in London for two years and then (go) to Edinburgh.

3 You (wear) your hair long when you were at school? ~ Yes, my mother (insist) on it.

4 But when I (leave) school I (cut) my hair and (wear) it short ever since.

5 Shakespeare (write) a lot of plays.

6 My brother (write) several plays. He just (finish) his second tragedy.

7 I (fly) over Loch Ness last week. ~ You (see) the Loch Ness monster?

8 I (not see) him for three years. I wonder where he is.

9 He (not smoke) for two weeks. He is trying to give it up.

10 Chopin (compose) some of his music in Majorca.

11 When he (arrive)? ~ He (arrive) at 2.00.

12 You (lock) the door before you left the house?

13 I (read) his books when I was at school. I (enjoy) them very much.

14 I can't go out because I (not finish) my work.

15 I never (drink) whisky. ~ Well, have some now.

16 I (write) the letter but I can't find a stamp.

17 The clock is slow. ~ It isn't slow, it (stop).

18 Here are your shoes; I just (clean) them.

19 I (leave) home at 8.00 and (get) here at twelve.

The Present Perfect and the Simple Past

Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect or simple past tense. Fill the spaces by repeating the auxiliary used in the preceding verb.

You (see) Mary on Monday? ~

Yes, I...

Did you see Mary on Monday?'

Yes, I did.

1 Where is Tom?- I (not see) him today, but he (tell) Mary that he'dbe in for dinner.

2 I (buy) this in Bond Street. ~ How much you (pay) for it? ~ I (pay) J100.

3 Where you (find) this knife? ~ I (find) it in the garden. ~ Why you (not leave) it there?

4 I (lose) my black gloves. You (see) them anywhere? ~ No, I'm afraid I.... When you last (wear) them? ~ I (wear) them at the theatre last night. ~ Perhaps you (leave) them at the theatre.

5 Do you know that lady who just (leave) the shop? ~ Yes, that is Miss Thrift. Is she a customer of yours? ~ Not exactly. She (be) in here several times but shenever (buy) anything.

6 He (leave) the house at 8.00. ~ Where he (go)? ~ I (not see) where he (go).

7 He (serve) in the First World War. ~ When that war (begin)? ~ It (begin) in 1914 and (last) for four years.

8 Who you (vote) for at the last election? ~ I (vote) for Mr Pitt. ~ He (not be) elected, (be) he? ~No, he (lose) his deposit.

9 You (like) your last job? ~ I (like) it at first but then I (quarrel) with my employer and he (dismiss) me. ~ How long you (be) there? ~ I (be) there for two weeks.

10 I (not know) that you (know) Mrs Pitt. How long you (know) her? ~ I (know) her for ten years.

11 That is Mr Minus, who teaches me mathematics, but he (not have) time to teach me much. I only (be) in his class for a week.

12 You (hear) his speech on the radio last night? ~Yes, I . . . ~ What you (think) of it?

13 I (not know) that you (be) here. You (be) here long? ~

Yes, I (be) here two months. ~

You (be) to the Cathedral? ~

Yes, I (go) there last Sunday.

14 You ever (try) to give up smoking? ~ Yes, I (try) last year, but then I (find) that I was getting fat so I (start) again.

15 You (see) today's paper? ~ No, anything interesting (happen)?

Yes, two convicted murderers (escape) from the prison down the road.

16 Mary (feed) the cat? ~ Yes, she (feed) him before lunch. ~ What she (give) him? ~ She (give) him some fish.

17 How long you (know) your new assistant? ~

I (know) him for two years. ~

What he (do) before he (come) here? ~

I think he (be) in prison.

18 I (not see) your aunt recently. ~

No. She (not be) out of her house since she (buy) her colour TV.

19 The plumber (be) here yet? ~

Yes, but he only (stay) for an hour. ~

What he (do) in that time? ~

He (turn) off the water and (empty) the tank.

20 Where you (be)?

I (be) out in a yacht. ~

You (enjoy) it? ~

Yes, very much. We (take) part in a race. ~

You (win)? ~

No, we (come) in last.

Fourth Week:***The Present Perfect and the Present Perfect Continuous***

Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect or the present perfect continuous tense.

(In some cases either could be used.)

1 We (walk) ten kilometres.

2 We (walk) for three hours.

3 You (walk) too fast. That's why you are tired.

4 I (make) sausage rolls for the party all the morning.

5 How many you (make)? ~ I (make) 200.

6 That boy (eat) seven ice-creams.

7 He (not stop) eating since he arrived.

8 The driver (drink). I think someone else ought to drive.

9 I (pull) up 100 dandelions.

10 I (pull) up dandelions all day.

11 What you (do)? ~ We (pick) apples.

12 How many you (pick)? ~ We (pick) ten basketfuls.

13 I (sleep) on every bed in this house and I don't like any of them.

14 He (sleep) since ten o'clock. It's time he woke up.

15 He (ride); that's why he is wearing breeches.

16 I (ride) all the horses in this stable.

17 What a lovely smell! ~ Mary (make) jam.

18 The students (work) very well this term.

19 I only (hear) from him twice since he went away.

20 I (hear) from her regularly. She is a very good correspondent.

- 21 I (grease) my car. That's why my hands are so dirty.
- 22 I (polish) this table all the morning and she isn't satisfied with it yet.
- 23 I (work) for him for ten years and he never once(say) 'Good morning' to me.
- 24 He (teach) in this school for five years.
- 25 I (teach) hundreds of students but I never (meet) such a hopeless class as this.
- 26 Why you (be) so long in the garage? ~ The tyres were flat; I (pump) them up.
- 27 I (pump) up three tyres. Would you like to do the fourth?
- 28 I (look) for mushrooms but I (not find) any.
- 29 He (cough) a lot lately. He ought to give up smoking.
- 30 You (hear) the news? Tom and Ann are engaged! ~ That's not new; I (know) it for ages!
- 31 I (try) to finish this letter for the last half-hour. I wish you'd go away or stop talking. ~ I hardly (say) anything.
- 32 The driver of that car (sound) his horn for the last ten minutes.
- 33 It (rain) for two hours and the ground is too wet to play on, so the match (be) postponed.
- 34 He (hope) for a rise in salary for six months but he (not dare) to ask for it yet.
- 35 Mr Smith, you (whisper) to the student on your right for the last five minutes. You (help) him with his exam paper or he (help) you?
- 36 Why you (make) such a horrible noise? ~
- I (lose) my key and I (try) to wake my wife by throwing stones at he window. ~
- You (throw) stones at the wrong window. You live next door.

Simple Past, Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences with the past simple or past perfect tense.

1. After Fred (to spend) his holiday in Italy he (to want) to learn Italian.
2. Jill..... (to phone) Dad at work before she..... (to leave) for her trip.
3. Susan (to turn on) the radio after she (to wash) the dishes.
4. When she (to arrive) the matchalready..... (to start).
5. After the man..... (to come) home he.....(to feed) the cat.
6. Before he..... (to sing) a song he..... (to play) the guitar.
7. She..... (to watch) a video after the children..... (to go) to bed.
8. After Eric..... (to make) breakfast he..... (to phone) his friend.
9. I..... (to be) very tired because I..... (to study) too much.
10. They..... (to ride) their bikes before they..... (to meet) their friends.

Exercise 2: Complete the texts with the past simple or past perfect tense.

1. When I (be) 18 years old I (decide) to spend some time in America. But until I (save) enough money I (not tell) anybody. My mum (be shocked), because we (never be) abroad. At that time I (have) a penfriend in Vermont for nearly three years and I (always want) to see her. I (know) that my English (be) very good as I (pass) Cambridge exams with grade A. Before I (start) to write to Wendy, it (never come) to my mind that I could go to the States on my own. But after I (decide) to set off I just (have) to go.
2. It (be) 11 o'clock. Carol Parker (arrive) at the Shaw Hotel five minutes before. She (try) to find the hotel several times. Carol (never be) to Dublin. She (have) a detailed map in her hanbag, but she (cannot) read it. She (call) the reception and (ask) about the way, but it (not help) her. Finally, Carol (find) the hotel. She was dying for a cup of tea and a hot shower.

Exercise 3:

a. Read the situations and complete the sentences using the past simple and/or the past perfect continuous

e.g. We played tennis yesterday. Half an hour after we began playing it started to rain.
We had been playing for half an hour when it started to rain.

1. I had arranged to meet Tom in a restaurant. I arrived and waited for him. After 20 minutes I suddenly realized that I was in the wrong restaurant.
 I.....for 20 minutes when I
2. Sarah got a job in a factory. Five years later the factory closed down.
 At the time the factory, Sarah.....for five years
3. I went to a concert last week. The orchestra began playing. After about ten minutes a man in the audience suddenly began shouting.
 The orchestra.....when.....

b. Read the situations and make sentences from the words in brackets.

e.g. I was very tired when I arrived home.

(I/work/ hard all day) *I had been working hard all day.*

1. The two boys came into the house. They had a football and they were both very tired.
 (they/play/ football).....
2. There was nobody in the room but there was a smell of cigarettes.
 (somebody/ smoke/ in the room).....
3. Ann woke up in the middle of the night. She was frightened and didn't know where she was.
 (she/ dream).....
4. When I got home, Mike was sitting in front of the TV. He had just turned it off.
 (he/ watch/ TV).....

c. Put the verb into the most suitable form, past continuous, past perfect, or past perfect continuous

- 1 It was very noisy next door. Our neighbors.....(have) a party.
2. we were good friends. We(know) each other for a long time.
- 3 John and I went for a walk. I had difficulty keeping up with him because he.....(walk) so fast.
- 4 Mary was sitting on the ground. She was out of breath. She.....(run).

5 When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table with their mouths full. They(eat)

6 When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table and talking. Their mouths were empty but their stomachs were full. They.....(eat).

7 Jim was on his hands and knees on the floor. He(look) for his contact lenses.

8 When I arrived, Kate(wait) for me. She was rather annoyed with me because I was late and she.....(wait) for a very long time.

9 I was sad when I sold my car, I(have) for a very long time.

10 We were extremely tired at the end of the journey. We(travel) for more than 24 hours.

Mixed Tenses

Choose the correct tenses and justify your answer.

1. Frank in Toronto? a) Did you meet b) Have you met c) Were you meeting
.....
2. He had a break after he for two hours. a) was walking b) had been walking c) has walked
.....
3. I her for a long time. a) know b) have known c) have been knowing
.....
4. We the windows and the car on Saturday morning. a) were cleaning b) cleaned c) have been cleaning
.....
5. I..... in York for a week in 1998. a) worked b) have been working c) have worked
.....
6. I you in your office with a girl! Really? We a) saw - 've just talked b) 've seen - just talked c) saw - were just talking
.....
7. How many cupboards since yesterday? a) did they move b) have they moved c) have they been moving
.....
8. As he a bike, a dog him. a) was riding - bit b) rode - bit c) was riding - has bitten
.....
9. When the dog him, he his bike. a) was biting - fell off b) bit - was falling off c) bit - fell off
.....
...
10. I didn't notice that you a) had come b) came c) have been coming
.....
11. I can't stand it anymore. I the furniture since breakfast. a) am polishing b) have been polishing c) have polished
.....

12. the dishes yet? a) Has he washed b) Has he been washing c) Did he wash
.....

13. They a hotel in York, but then they it. a) have bought - sold b) bought - have sold c)
bought - sold
.....

14. She couldn't play yesterday because she..... her ankle the day before. a) have sprained b) sprained c)
had sprained
.....

15. I can't find Todd. Where is he? He..... in the garage. a) 's been working b) worked c) was working
.....

16. She books on the shelves all day. That's why she is so exhausted. a) was putting b) has put c) has
been putting
.....

17. She's hurt her arm. - When it? a) has she hurt b) has she hurted c) did she hurt
.....