

PAST TENSES

Context listening

1 You are going to hear Jack talking to his grandmother. Before you listen, look at questions 1-8 and guess who did what. Write J (for Jack) or G (for Gran) or M (for Jack's mother). Did Jack, his Gran or his Mum:

- 1 go to London? **J**
- 2 go to the cinema? **J**
- 3 see a famous footballer? **J**
- 4 collect autographs? **J**
- 5 go up to town alone? **J**
- 6 scream at pop concerts? **J**
- 7 worry about homework? **J**
- 8 go to a club? **J**



2 **Q2** Listen and check if you were right.

3 Look at your answers to Exercise 1 and answer these questions.

- 1** Which things did Jack do last Saturday? **J**
 - 2** What tense does he use? **Present simple**
 - 3** Which things did Gran do when she was young? **J**
 - 4** Did she do them regularly? **Yes**
- 4** **Q2** Listen again and complete these sentences.
- 1 We did some revision for our exams while we **was** for the cinema, we saw a really famous footballer.
 - 2 He **was** a burger and all the crowds **was** past but nobody noticed him except me.
- 5** Which tense is in the gaps in Exercise 4? **Present simple**

Exercise 4:

4. Fill in the gaps with the past simple or past continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 My parents **got** (get) (gen) to know each other when they **were studying** (study) at university.
 - 2 Doctor Fisher **travelled** (travel) widely as a young man and **he always kept** (always keep) a diary.
 - 3 I **saw** (see) my brother and his girlfriend when I **was waiting** (wait) for the bus, but they **didn't see** (not see) me.
 - 4 Lily **filled** (fill) in the application form and **gave** (give) it to the receptionist.
 - 5 While I **was working** (work) in Rome, I **met** (meet) a girl who **loved** (love) just like your sister.
 - 6 Simon **finished** (finish) with his girlfriend because she **was always cancelling** (always cancel) dates at the last moment.
 - 7 Anna's feeling depressed because she **was hoping** (hope) for a pay rise last week, but she **didn't get** (not get) one.
- 2.** Underline the correct form of the verbs.

MAKING CHANGES

Ada Atkins, 93, explains why she has come to live in town

Years ago, nobody in my village **would lock** (1) / **was locking** (1) their front doors. We **used to feel** / **would feel** (2) safe in those days. Last month, I **met** / **was meeting** (3) my neighbour in the street when I **was walking** / **would walk** (4) home from the shops and she **told** / **was telling** (5) me some bad news. Thieves **were breaking** / **used to break** (6) into people's houses while they **were sitting** / **would sit** (7) in their back gardens. I **realised** / **was realising** (8) that I **wasn't wanting** / **didn't want** (9) to live there any more. So last week I **was moving** / **moved** (10)

to this little flat. I **am not used** / **didn't use** (11) to being in the town yet, but people are more friendly than I **was thinking** / **thought** (12) they might be, and I feel much happier and safer.



Complete the sentences with an appropriate form of the verb given. Use the past simple, present perfect, past perfect and past perfect continuous tenses. Use each tense at least once in each group of four sentences, but give alternatives where possible.

1 play

- a We have played 35 matches so far this season, so we're all feeling pretty tired.
- b After the match, she admitted that she had played badly.
- c Did you play rugby or football at the school you went to?
- d We had been playing really well all year, so it came as a big surprise when we were beaten by Wales last December.

2 make

- a We made the right decision in emigrating to Canada in the mid-1990s.
- b Henson never thought about retirement. In fact, he had been making a documentary film about the indigenous people of Chile when he died.
- c A: When did you realise that you had made a mistake in joining the army?
B: When I was posted to Afghanistan.
- d Korean scientists believe that they have made a breakthrough in the fight against cancer by developing a technique for containing the disease. They reported their findings at the AAL conference in New York this week.

3 eat

- a The couple described how they had been eating in the dining room when the explosion destroyed the hotel.
- b My mother was a vegetarian, and as children we rarely ate meat.
- c I had eaten prawns a few times before last week without any ill effects, but the ones I had at the restaurant made me very sick indeed.
- d A: Would you like some of these cherries?
B: Yes, please. I haven't eaten any fresh fruit for days.

4 run

- a Over the last year I have run workshops on creative writing in twelve colleges and universities.
- b She was breathing hard as if she had been running.
- c She had run only two marathons before breaking the world record in the Pan-African Games.
- d I was late for work so I run most of the way.

3. Complete the sentences using the Past Continuous, Past Perfect or Past Perfect Continuous. Use the verb given in brackets. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 They stood under the shelter because it was raining (rain).
- 2 The roads were wet because it had rained (rain) all night. I had been raining
- 3 He was broke. He had spent (spend) all his money.
- 4 I was having (have) a nightmare when the alarm went off and woke me up.
- 5 His hands were covered in oil because he had been trying (try) to fix the car all morning. Unfortunately, he hadn't managed (manage) to make it start.
- 6 When she opened the window she was happy to see it was snowing (snow) lightly. In fact, it had snowed (snow) all night and snow had covered (cover) all the rooftops.
- 7 When Mrs Morgan came into the classroom, the pupils were running (run) around and were screaming (scream) at the tops of their voices. They had knocked (knock) over chairs and desks and someone had drawn (draw) funny pictures on the board.
- 8 Although I had set (set) off early, I got there late and everyone was waiting (wait) for me to start the meeting; the chairperson told me they had been (wait) for a whole hour.
- 9 When we got back from our holiday we discovered that someone had broken (break) into our house.

4. Fill each gap in this text with one suitable word.

DISASTER!

About seventy years ago, a Dutch ship was sailing (1) near the North Pole; it was (2) heading for Blacklead Island. On the ship was a scientist, Edgar Greenhead, who had (3) worked on the island for many years; he had been (4) conducting research into the life of the local inhabitants, who were Eskimos (Inuits). Greenhead had been (5) away for a long holiday and now he was coming (6) back to the island to continue his work.

At about midnight, Greenhead felt very tired as he had been (7) writing his journal all day. After he had said (8) good-night to the captain, he went (9) down to his cabin. Outside there was (10) a strong wind, and the waves were (11) crashing onto the side of the ship. Greenhead was just getting (12) ready to climb into his bunk when he suddenly heard (13) a great crash. He dashed up on deck and although it

1.

2.

Irregular verbs

Complete the sentences with the irregular verb in the box in either the Past Simple or the Past Perfect.

fall

1 Harry fell in love with a Greek girl while he was working in Athens.

2 He had fallen in love before, but this was different. He wanted to marry her.

tear

3 Johann saw Camilla's trousers and asked how she had torn them.

4 While she was hiking in the Alps, she tore he trousers on a rock.

cost

5 It cost an awful lot to have our car fixed.

6 Ted told me his new car had cost a fortune.

fly

7 When I went to Australia, I was nervous because I had never flown (never) before.

8 The plane took off and flew into the clouds.

catch

9 Suzy wondered how she caught a cold in the middle of her summer holiday.

10 She had caught a taxi outside the restaurant, and went back to her hotel.

be

11 Talks were held in New York last week to discuss global warming.

12 When the politicians left the talks, no decisions had been reached.

Fill in the gaps with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs in brackets. ^{III}
In which gaps could you use *used to*?

I 1 ^{used to make} ~~had~~ ^{make} (have) a wonderful biology teacher, Mrs Hughes. She 2 ^{used to make} ~~made (make) us excited about the subject because she was so interested herself. I remember one lesson in particular; we 3 ^{were studying} (study) different types of plants, and Mrs Hughes 4 ^{was describing} (describe) the different parts of the flower. She 5 ^{picked up} (pick up) a purple flower, I can't remember exactly what it was, and then suddenly we 6 ^{noticed} (notice) that she 7 ^{was crying} (cry)! She 8 ^{apologised} (apologise) and 9 ^{said} (say) that sometimes nature was so beautiful it just made her cry! We 10 ^{didn't know} (not/know) what to do at first, but it certainly 11 ^{made} (make) us think. Something similar 12 ^{happened} (happen) while she 13 ^{was showing} (show) us how to work the microscope. She 14 ^{was examining} (examine) a slide of some plant tissue and she 15 ^{was smiling} (smile) all over her face. She suddenly 16 ^{got} (get) all excited and 17 ^{said} (say), 'Isn't it wonderful?' Some students 18 ^{laughed I was laughing} (laugh) at her when she 19 ^{wasn't looking} (not/look) but I didn't. Somehow her enthusiasm 20 ^{inspired} (inspire) me, and I 21 ^{started} (start) to like biology.~~

A teacher and student are talking about local customs. Fill in the gaps with the verbs in brackets in the correct form. Use *would* or *used to* where possible.

Teacher: What sort of things 1 ^{did you use to do} (you/do) as a child?

Yoko: Oh, when I was a child growing up in Japan there were many customs that we 2 ^{would / used to follow} (follow). For example, I remember we 3 ^{moved} (move) house when I was seven and we 4 ^{visited} (visit) our new neighbours with gifts. At that time the tradition was that people 5 ^{would / used to give} (give) gifts of Japanese noodles, but it is different now and people tend to give things like soap or towels or nothing at all.

Teacher: 6 ^{did you use to have} (have) one tradition that you particularly remember?

Yoko: Yes, one tradition that I 7 ^{really used to like} (really/like) was in the spring when the cherry blossoms were out. As a family we 8 ^{went to / would go} (go) into the countryside and we 9 ^{would / used to spend} (spend) the day eating, drinking and singing. One year my father 10 ^{took} (take) a lovely photo of me and my sisters and I still keep that picture on my wall today.

Teacher: And 11 ^{did you use to have to} (you/have to) do anything you didn't like?

Yoko: Yes. I remember how we 12 ^{used to have to} (have to) clean the house thoroughly. This ceremony is called Osoji and my sisters and I

13 ^{didn't use to look forward to} (not/look forward to) it very much!

^{state verb so we don't use "would"}
^{would also not generally used with negatives}