

Past tenses

I can talk about events that took place in the past.

1 Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verb in brackets.

- I _____ (have) a shower when the postman _____ (arrive).
- Sandra _____ (drop) her bag while she _____ (run) for the bus.
- He _____ (read) the letter when he suddenly _____ (start) to laugh.
- The sun _____ (shine), so we _____ (decide) to have a barbecue.
- She _____ (hurt) her finger while she _____ (cut) some bread.
- Pat _____ (live) in Greece when he _____ (meet) Hannah.

2 Complete the sentences with the past simple or past perfect form of the verbs below.

arrive be complete decide finish get go lose not know pass put start take tell

- After we _____ eating, we _____ to go to the shops.
- By the time they _____ at the theatre, the play _____.
- He only realised he _____ his keys when he _____ to his front door.
- Jerry _____ delighted because he _____ all his exams.
- When everyone _____ a chocolate, she _____ the box away.
- They _____ out for a pizza after they _____ the project.
- I _____ about the accident because no one _____ me about it.

3 Choose the correct verbs to complete the sentences.

- My father **worked / has worked** as a policeman since he **left / has left** school.
- Linda **called / has called** me this morning. She **has decided / decided** to come out with us later.
- Tom **never drove / has never driven** a car because he's not old enough.
- I **bought / have bought** a new shirt at the weekend, but I **didn't wear / haven't worn** it yet.
- Pablo loves Sam Smith's new album, but I **haven't heard / didn't hear** it.
- I **spilled / have spilled** water on my phone earlier; I think I **broke / I've broken** it.

4 Complete the dialogue with the present perfect simple or continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- Eve** Hi, Will. ¹ _____ (you finish) reading that magazine yet?
- Will** Not quite. I ² _____ (read) this article about Paris. It's really interesting.
- Eve** ³ _____ (you visit) France, then?
- Will** Lots of times – we ⁴ _____ (go) there on holiday for years. Recently, my aunt and uncle ⁵ _____ (buy) a house there so we'll go even more often.
- Eve** Lucky you. I ⁶ _____ (never visit) another country. Anyway, I ⁷ _____ (make) a cake if you'd like a piece?
- Will** That's really kind, but no thanks. I ⁸ _____ (eat) biscuits all morning and I'm full!

5 Choose the correct verbs (a–c) to complete the text.



Last night, I ¹ _____ to music when my phone ² _____ ringing. It was my sister. She ³ _____ her bag and ⁴ _____ enough money to get a cab home. She ⁵ _____ to walk, but when it ⁶ _____ to rain, she ⁷ _____ to go to a café. She ⁸ _____ there and she wanted me to ask if Mum or Dad would drive over and pick her up!

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|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 a listened | b was listening | c had listened |
| 2 a started | b had started | c was starting |
| 3 a was losing | b lost | c had lost |
| 4 a didn't have | b hadn't had | c wasn't having |
| 5 a was starting | b started | c had started |
| 6 a began | b had begun | c was beginning |
| 7 a decided | b was deciding | c had decided |
| 8 a had waited | b was waiting | c waited |

6 Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use the correct past tense.

- 'Why is your face so red?' 'I _____ (sit) in the sun all morning.'
- I _____ (try) to do this crossword all morning and I still can't finish it.
- They were driving to the sea when the car _____ (run out) of petrol.
- After they'd woken up, they _____ (cook) a big breakfast.
- Rosa has eaten octopus, but she _____ (not try) snails before!
- I _____ (guess) what was inside the parcel before I opened it.