

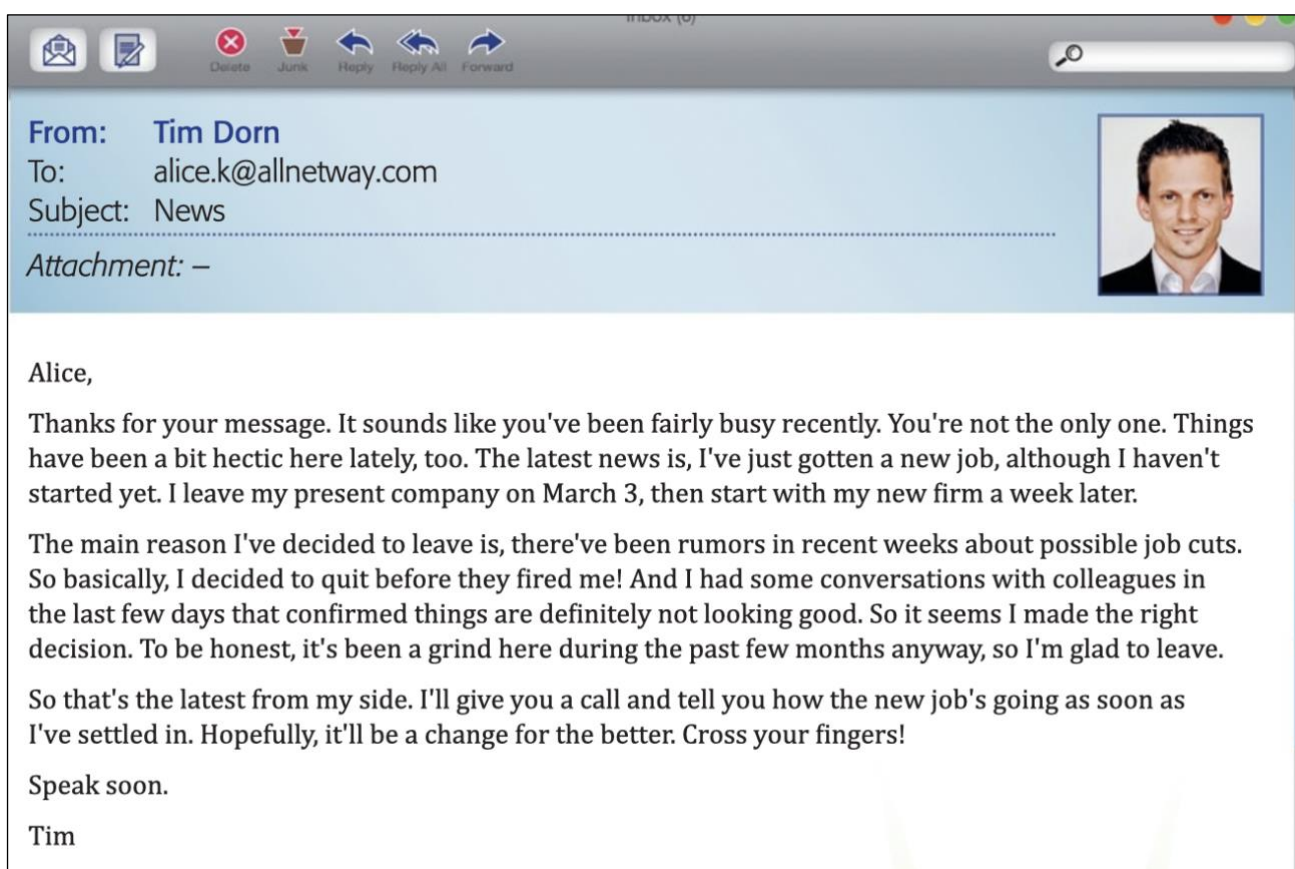
Structures

It wasn't long ago. It happened **recently**
lately.
in the last few days.
during the **past** weeks.

It happened a very short time ago. **It's just** happened.

I only arrived a few minutes ago. **I've just** arrived.

Reading 4.2



From: Tim Dorn
To: alice.k@allnetway.com
Subject: News
Attachment: –

Alice,

Thanks for your message. It sounds like you've been fairly busy recently. You're not the only one. Things have been a bit hectic here lately, too. The latest news is, I've just gotten a new job, although I haven't started yet. I leave my present company on March 3, then start with my new firm a week later.

The main reason I've decided to leave is, there've been rumors in recent weeks about possible job cuts. So basically, I decided to quit before they fired me! And I had some conversations with colleagues in the last few days that confirmed things are definitely not looking good. So it seems I made the right decision. To be honest, it's been a grind here during the past few months anyway, so I'm glad to leave.

So that's the latest from my side. I'll give you a call and tell you how the new job's going as soon as I've settled in. Hopefully, it'll be a change for the better. Cross your fingers!

Speak soon.

Tim

4.2 Follow-up

Look at 1–5, below, and read the email in Reading 4.2. Are the sentences true or false?

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 For Tim, a lot of things have happened in recent weeks. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2 Tim has already left the company and has started a new job. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3 He's been unhappy at work because he's had too much to do. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4 The company where Tim works has had problems recently. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 5 Tim is pleased that he's not staying with the company. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

Practice Exercise 1

Audio link: <https://www.inlingua.com/audios>

4.2 Listening (Track 14)



Complete the conversation between Tim, the man who wrote the email you read earlier, and Alice. In each part, use the correct form – for example, you started or you've started.

- A: So **1** (you / start) the new job yet?
 B: Yes. **2** (I / be) there just over a week.
 A: Is it going OK?
 B: Not too bad. The first week **3** (go) well, anyway.
 A: So **4** (you / be) in at the deep end on day one?
 B: No, not really. It **5** (be) a fairly gentle start, actually. **6** (I / have) a training course on the first day – a sort of introductory course, for new staff. Then **7** (I / spend) a day in the office, and **8** (meet) everyone there. They seem like a good bunch of people. Then someone **9** (take) me to the plant and **10** (show) me around, and **11** (I / see) some of the people there.
 A: So basically **12** (you / not / do) any work all week!
 B: No, not a lot, really.



Practice Exercise 2

Complete 1–5 with words that can be used instead of the highlighted words.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 Have you seen Eric recently ? | ▶ <input type="text" value="l"/> |
| 2 I've recently booked my vacation. | ▶ <input type="text" value="j"/> |
| 3 I haven't had much time off in the last few months. | ▶ <input type="text" value="d"/> |
| 4 The weather's been terrible in the last few days. | ▶ <input type="text" value="p"/> |
| 5 Have you heard the most recent news? | ▶ <input type="text" value="l"/> |

ANSWERS

Follow-up 4.2

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. T
5. T

Practice Exercise 1

1. Have you started
2. I've been
3. Went
4. You were
5. Was
6. Had
7. I spent
8. Met
9. Took
10. Showed
11. Saw
12. You didn't do

Practice Exercise 2

1. Lately
2. Just
3. During
4. Past
5. Latest