

- 7.1 Complete the sentences with one of these verbs, using the same verb for each sentence in the pair. Use the past perfect continuous if possible; if not, use the past perfect. (A)

apply carry fly smoke work

- 1 a She _____ for the company since she left school, so I wasn't surprised when she took a new job in London.
- b She _____ finally _____ her way up from trainee to a management position, and she celebrated her promotion with a big party.
- 2 a The avalanche _____ them 500 metres down the mountain but no-one was hurt.
- b She took a bottle from the bag she _____ all the way from home.
- 3 a Michael _____ all his cigarettes and had to borrow some from Kate.
- b By the smell in the room and his guilty expression I could tell that Alex _____.
- 4 a We _____ for visas early, but still hadn't got them by the week before the holiday.
- b She _____ for jobs, without success, since leaving university.
- 5 a He _____ all the way from New York to be at yesterday's meeting.
- b When the plane was diverted, shortly after take-off, it _____ from London to Frankfurt.

Look again at the sentences where you have used the past perfect continuous and decide when you could use the past simple instead of the past perfect in these sentences. (You may need to study Unit 5 again.)

- 7.2 Choose the past perfect continuous form of the verb if appropriate; if not, use the past perfect. (B-D)

- 1 Mrs Bishop _____ to have children for years; then she finally became pregnant at the age of 45. (*try*)
- 2 This was the first time we had been to the castle, even though we _____ Edinburgh a few times before. (*visit*)
- 3 She bought her first watch at the age of 8. It _____ two pounds. (*cost*)
- 4 Meg James _____ children's stories for 10 years when she got her first book published. (*write*)
- 5 For some time Mark _____ about passing the exams and eventually decided to change the course he was taking. (*worry*)
- 6 My teacher was really annoyed with me. It was the third time I _____ late for school that week. (*arrive*)
- 7 I _____ always _____ it would be easy to get a job, and was disappointed to be rejected. (*believe*)
- 8 We _____ about Sue when, to our amazement, she walked through the door. (*talk*)

In which one of the sentences where you have used the past perfect continuous do you think the past continuous is more likely? (C)

- 7.3 Study this conversation extract. If the underlined verbs are correct, write ✓. If they are wrong, correct them using either the past perfect (active or passive) or past perfect continuous. (A-E)

A: How was your weekend?

B: Not great, actually. I (1) 'd really been looking forward to a relaxing couple of days. But early on Saturday morning Mum phoned to say that Dad (2) had been taking ill.

A: Oh, no! What (3) had happened?

B: She (4) had just been hearing that he (5) had been flown by helicopter to hospital in Edinburgh from a village called Contin where he (6) had fished with my Uncle Mark.

A: And is he okay? What's wrong with him?

B: Well, Uncle Mark said that Dad (7) had been complaining of a bad headache most of yesterday, but he (8) hadn't been wanting to go back to the hotel and spoil the day. But then in the evening, just as they (9) had stopped fishing for the day, he (10) had been collapsing...

Present and past time: review

A Continuous and simple

When we focus on an activity itself, starting before and continuing up to (and possibly beyond) a particular point of time, rather than focusing on actions as completed events, we use *continuous* forms:

- ☐ Janet can't come to the phone. She's **washing** her hair.
- ☐ As you're **not using** your car at the moment, can I borrow it?
- ☐ This time yesterday I **was flying** over the Pacific.
- ☐ Was she **wearing** that red dress when you saw her?

We use *simple* forms to talk about general situations, habits, and things that are or were always true:

- ☐ When I **worked** as a postman I **got up** at 3 o'clock every morning.
- ☐ Miguel **doesn't play** golf very well.
- ☐ These birds **build** their nests on the ground.
- ☐ The earthquake **struck** the area at midday yesterday. (past simple for completed events)

We use simple forms with verbs that describe unchanging states; that is, things that stay the same:

- ☐ She **intends** to work hard at school and go on to university.
- ☐ Did you **understand** the instructions we were given?

However, we can use continuous forms with these verbs when they describe something happening or changing:

- ☐ She **was intending** to talk to Tony about the idea, but she didn't get the opportunity.
- ☐ I'm **understanding** physics much better now that Mr Davies is teaching us.

B Perfect

We use *perfect* verb forms to describe one event or state from the point of view of a later time. The present perfect suggests a connection between something that happened in the past and the present time. Notice, however, that the situation or event does not have to continue until the time of speaking, only to have some connection or relevance to the present time:

- ☐ I've **finished** the new Harry Potter book now, so you can borrow my copy if you like.
- ☐ Have you **turned** the gas off? I don't like it to be on when I'm not at home.
- ☐ Your nose is bleeding. **Has** somebody **hit** you?

The past perfect is used to locate a past event before another past event:

- ☐ I invited him out to dinner, but he said he **had already eaten**.
- ☐ By the time I picked up the phone, they **had rung off**.

C Combinations of perfect and continuous

We combine the perfect and continuous forms in the present perfect continuous to describe an activity in progress either at or recently before the time of speaking, and possibly beyond it:

- ☐ I **have been following** the discussions with great interest.

We can also use the present perfect continuous to talk about activities that have recently finished with some result that can be seen, heard, etc.:

- ☐ Look at the dirt on your clothes! **Have you been digging** in the garden again?

The past perfect continuous has a similar meaning. However, the point of reference is not 'now' (as it is with the present perfect continuous) but a point in the past:

- ☐ When we met Simon and Pat, they **had been riding**.
- ☐ It **had been snowing** heavily for hours and when I went to the door I couldn't open it.

- 8.1 Complete this letter from Australia using the following verbs. Use the present simple, present continuous, past simple or past continuous. (A)

In 1–10 use: arrive feel (x2) get go know spend wait write (x2)

In 11–20 use: ask complain enjoy get (not) get on hear look (x2) seem start

Dear Mum and Dad

I (1) am writing this letter in a hotel room in Perth. I (2) here a couple of hours ago after a long coach journey from Adelaide. I (3) pretty tired so this will only be a short note before I (4) to sleep.

As you (5), I (6) last week in Adelaide with Jean and David. I (7) to them a month or so ago to tell them when I would be arriving, and they (8) at the airport for me when I (9) there. For the first few days I (10) quite jet-lagged, but I soon (11) over that after a few days of lazing around on the beach.

Jean and David (12) living in Adelaide a lot, although Jean (13) for a new job just now. It (14) that she (15) very well with her colleagues. Apparently they constantly (16) about the working conditions and it (17) to annoy Jean. They (18) me to pass on their best wishes to you. So now I (19) forward to exploring Perth. I (20) it's a wonderful place. I'll write again in a few days.

Love, Abigail

- 8.2 Complete this extract from a newspaper article with the verbs given. Use the past simple, present perfect or past perfect. (B)

RONSON SACKED IN UNITED CUTS

Aston United (1) have sacked (sack) their manager, Neil Ronson. The former England football international (2) (say) that he (3) (hear) the news when he (4) (return) from a three-week holiday in Spain and that it (5) (come) as a complete shock. "There (6) (be) no hint of any problem when I (7) (leave) for the holiday."

Aston United (8) (appoint) Ronson as manager two years ago and last season they (9) (finish) second in the First Division. However, they (10) (win) only five matches so far this season. The Chairman of the club, Peter White, last night (11) (accuse) Ronson of lack of commitment to the club. "Neil's attitude (12) (disappoint) us recently. Over the last few months he (13) (spend) more time on Spanish beaches than working with the players in Aston."...

- 8.3 In Unit 7 (Exercise 7.3) you read the beginning of a conversation. Here is the rest of it. If the verb in the underlined section is correct, write ✓. If it is wrong, correct it using the past simple, present perfect, past perfect, present perfect continuous or past perfect continuous as appropriate. (A–C)

A: (1) Did he have any health problems recently?

B: Well, he (2) 's been suffering from high blood pressure for some time, but we (3) have thought a fishing holiday in Scotland would be relaxing for him. He (4) worked too hard for months now, and we (5) 've been trying to persuade him to have a break for ages before he finally agreed.

A: So (6) have you gone up to Scotland when you (7) have heard?

B: No, Mum (8) has gone up to be with him, but the doctors (9) have checked him over and (10) had been saying that it's not too serious. They (11) gave him some medicine to bring down his blood pressure and (12) had told him that he needs complete rest for a couple of months. So Mum's driving him back in the car tomorrow.

A: Well, send him my best wishes when you speak to him.

B: Thanks, I will do.

Will and be going to

A We can use either **will** or **be going to** to talk about something that is planned, or something that we think is likely to happen in the future:

- ☐ We **will** study climate change in a later part of the course. (or We **are going to** study...)
- ☐ Where **will** you stay in Berlin? (or Where **are you going to** stay...?)
- ☐ The south of the city **won't** be affected by the power cuts. (or ...**isn't going to** be affected...)

We often prefer **be going to** in informal contexts (see also D).

B We use **will** rather than **be going to** to make a prediction based on our opinion or experience:

- ☐ Why not come over at the weekend? The children **will** enjoy seeing you again.
- ☐ 'Shall I ask Sandra?' 'No, she **won't** want to be disturbed.'

We use **be going to** rather than **will** when we make a prediction based on some present evidence:

- ☐ The sky has gone really dark. There's **going to** be a storm.
- ☐ 'What's the matter with her?' 'It looks like she's **going to** faint.'

C To predict the future we often use **will** with *I bet* (informal), *I expect*, *I hope*, *I imagine*, *I reckon* (informal), *I think*, *I wonder*, and *I'm sure*, and in questions with **think** and **reckon**:

- ☐ *I imagine* the stadium **will** be full for the match on Saturday.
- ☐ That cheese smells awful. *I bet* nobody **will** eat it.
- ☐ When *do you think* you'll finish work? ☐ *Do you reckon* he'll say yes?

Be going to can also be used with these phrases, particularly in informal contexts.

D We use **will** when we make a decision at the moment of speaking (see GR:B1) and **be going to** for decisions about the future that have already been made (see GR:B5). Compare:

- ☐ I'll pick him up at 8.00. (an offer; making an arrangement now) *and*
- ☐ I'm **going to** collect the children at 8.00. (this was previously arranged)
- ☐ 'Pineapples are on special offer this week.' 'In that case, I'll buy two.' *and*
- ☐ When I've saved up enough money, I'm **going to** buy a digital camera.

However, in a formal style, we use **will** rather than **be going to** to talk about future events that have been previously arranged in some detail. Compare:

- ☐ **Are you going to** talk at the meeting tonight? *and*
- ☐ The meeting **will** begin at 9.00 a.m. Refreshments **will** be available from 8.30 onwards.

E We can use **will** or **be going to** with little difference in meaning in the main clause of an *if*-sentence when we say that something (often something negative) is conditional on something else:

- ☐ If we go on like this, we'll/we're **going to** lose all our money.
- ☐ You'll/You're **going to** knock that glass over if you're not more careful.

When the future event does not depend on the action described in the *if*-clause, we use **be going to**, not **will**. This kind of sentence is mainly found in spoken English. Compare:

- ☐ I'm **going to** open a bottle of lemonade, if you want some. (= I'm going to open a bottle of lemonade. Do you want some?) *and*
- ☐ I'll open a bottle of lemonade if you want some. (= If you say you want some, I'll open a bottle.)

However, we use **will**, not **be going to**, when the main clause refers to offers, requests, promises, etc. and ability:

- ☐ If Jack phones I'll let you know. (= an offer; '..., I'm going to let you know' suggests 'I intend to let you know when Jack phones')
- ☐ If you look to your left, you'll see the lake. (= you'll be able to see; '...you're going to see...' suggests 'I know this is what you can see when you look to your left')

and when one thing is the logical consequence of another:

- ☐ If you don't switch on the monitor first, the computer **won't** come on.

Grammar review: **will** → B1-B4; **be going to** → B5

9.1 Complete the text using the verbs given. Choose will ('ll) or (be) going to with each verb, depending on which is more appropriate. (A-D)

- 1 A: I can't come over during the day.
B: I _____ you tomorrow evening, then. (*see*)
- 2 The method is quite simple, and I'm sure it _____ familiar to most of you already. (*be*)
- 3 Have you seen Karen recently? She _____ another baby. (*have*)
- 4 A: Did you get the theatre tickets?
B: No, I forgot all about them. I _____ them tomorrow. (*book*)
- 5 Wherever you go in Brazil, you _____ the people very friendly. (*find*)
- 6 John says he _____ a politician when he grows up – and he's only 5 years old! (*be*)
- 7 Are these new skis yours? _____ you _____ skiing? (*take up*)
- 8 It's getting very humid – we _____ a thunderstorm. (*have*)
- 9 A: We've got small, medium and large. What size do you want?
B: I _____ a large one, please. (*have*)
- 10 A: Shall I give Ian another ring?
B: Yes, I expect he _____ home by now. (*be*)
- 11 A: What are all those bricks for?
B: I _____ a wall at the side of the garden. (*build*)
- 12 I hear you _____ your car. How much do you want for it? (*sell*)
- 13 You can't play football in the garden. I _____ the grass. (*cut*)
- 14 A: What's the matter with Paula?
B: She says she _____.
A: She _____ better with some fresh air. (*be sick – feel*)
- 15 A: I've been offered a new job in Manchester, so I _____ Camco.
B: When _____ your boss?
A: I'm not sure. Perhaps I _____ to see him later today. (*leave – tell – try*)
- 16 A: Did I tell you I _____ dinner with Ken on Thursday?
B: But we _____ a film with Ray and Mary on Thursday. You've known about it for weeks.
A: Sorry. In that case, I _____ a different day with Ken. (*have – see – sort out*)

9.2 Complete the sentences with will ('ll) or (be) going to and an appropriate verb. If both will and be going to are possible, write them both. (E)

- 1 If you want me to, I 'll explain how the equipment works.
- 2 If you listen carefully, you _____ an owl in the trees over there.
- 3 You _____ your back if you try to lift that box.
- 4 If I give you the money _____ you _____ me some oranges when you're out?
- 5 If you press the red button, the machine _____.
- 6 I _____ Jane this weekend, if you'd like to come too.
- 7 He's been told that if he's late once more he _____.
- 8 If you want to help us, we _____ those trees at the bottom of the garden.

Present simple and present continuous for
the future

Present simple

A We can often use either the present simple or **will** to talk about future events that are part of some timetabled or programmed arrangement or routine. However, we prefer the present simple for fixed, unchangeable events. Compare:

- ☐ Does the sale **finish** on Thursday or Friday? (or **Will** the sale finish...?) and
- ☐ The sun **rises** at 5.16 tomorrow. (*more likely than* The sun **will** rise...)

We avoid the present simple when we talk about less formal or less routine arrangements, or predictions. Instead we use **will**, **be going to**, or the present continuous:

- ☐ **Are** you just **staying** in to watch TV tonight, or **are** you **coming** dancing? (*not* Do you just stay to watch TV tonight, or do you come...)
- ☐ It's only a problem in Britain now, but it **will** affect the rest of Europe soon. (*not*... but it affects the rest of Europe soon.)

B We use the present simple, not **will**, to refer to the future –

- ☆ in time clauses with conjunctions such as **after**, **as soon as**, **before**, **by the time**, **when**, **while**, **until**:
 - ☐ *When* you see Dave, tell him he still owes me some money. (*not* When you **will** see Dave...)
 - ☐ I should be finished *by the time* you get back. (*not* ...by the time you **will** get back.)
- ☆ in conditional clauses with **if**, **in case**, **provided**, and **unless**:
 - ☐ *Provided* the right software is available, I should be able to solve the problem.
 - ☐ I'll bring some sandwiches *in case* we **don't find** anywhere decent to eat.
- ☆ when we talk about possible future events with **suppose**, **supposing**, and **what if** at the beginning of a sentence. Notice that the past simple can be used with a similar meaning:
 - ☐ *Suppose* we miss the bus – how will we get home? (or *Suppose* we **missed**...)
 - ☐ *What if* the train's late? Where shall I meet you then? (or *What if* the train **was** late?)

Present continuous

C We can often use either the present continuous or **be going to** with a similar meaning to talk about planned future events. This use of the present continuous indicates that we have a firm intention or have made a definite decision to do something, although this may not already be arranged:

- ☐ **Are** you **seeing** the doctor again next week? (or **Are** you **going to see**...?)
- ☐ I'm **not asking** Tom to the party. (or I'm **not going to ask**...)

However, we don't use the present continuous for the future –

- ☆ when we make or report predictions about activities or events over which we have no control (we can't arrange these):
 - ☐ I think it's **going to rain** soon.
 - ☐ Scientists say that the satellite **won't cause** any damage when it falls to Earth some time this afternoon.
- ☆ when we talk about permanent future situations:
 - ☐ People **are going to live/will live** longer in the future.
 - ☐ Her new house **is going to have/will have** three floors.

D Many people avoid **be going to + go/come** and use the present continuous forms of **go** and **come** instead:

- ☐ I'm **going to town** on Saturday. (*rather than* I'm going to go to town...)
- ☐ **Are** you **coming home** for lunch? (*rather than* Are you going to come...?)

Grammar review: present simple for the future → B6; present continuous for the future → B7