

UNIT 6

Language focus

1 Past Simple and Past Perfect

Complete the account with the verbs in brackets. Use the Past Simple or the Past Perfect, but choose the Past Perfect where both tenses are possible.



A gap year in Guatemala

When Sarah Vine looked ¹ back on her life, it _____ ² (seem) more and more boring that she _____ ³ (move) straight from school to university, and then to six years with the same employer, McAlister Homes. By her 29th birthday, she _____ ⁴ (reach) middle management – and also an important decision. She _____ ⁵ (decide) to leave her job and do something completely different.

When she _____ ⁶ (talk) about her plans to Tom Blanchard, the Managing Director at McAlister, she _____ ⁷ (already receive) an offer of a placement with a project in South America for a year. The project _____ ⁸ (be) an archaeological dig near the town of Chocoma in Guatemala. A group of American archaeologists _____ ⁹ (recently discover) a 2,000-year-old Mayan site, and they _____ ¹⁰ (want) volunteers to help with the dig.

Before Sarah _____ ¹¹ (travel) to Guatemala, she _____ ¹² (expect) just to work on the dig. Just before her flight, however, the organizers suddenly _____ ¹³ (ask) her to work part-time as the project administrator. At first, she _____ ¹⁴ (wonder) whether to accept or not because she _____ ¹⁵ (dream) for so long about a complete escape from that sort of work – but finally she _____ ¹⁶ (agree).

After Sarah _____ ¹⁷ (be) on the dig for a week, she _____ ¹⁸ (realize) that her 'part-time' job _____ ¹⁹ (require) most of her time. By then, though, she _____ ²⁰ (start) to enjoy it! 'I feel all right about it,' she now says. 'Back in London, the organizers could see that they _____ ²¹ (need) this sort of help most, and that I _____ ²² (have) the skills to make a big difference.'

2 Past Simple and Past Continuous

Complete the account with the verbs in brackets. Use the Past Simple or the Past Continuous, but choose the Past Continuous where both tenses are possible.

Project Patagonia

Édouard Le Hérissier

After a week of training, we walked ¹ (walk) into the mountains on a practice trip. When we ² (start), the sun ³ (shine). But by the time we ⁴ (arrive) at Lago Castor, it ⁵ (rain) heavily, and a strong, cold wind ⁶ (blow) down from the Andes mountains. While we ⁷ (fight) to put up our tents in the wind that evening, the rain suddenly ⁸ (change) to snow. By the following morning, many of us ⁹ (think) of our warm, dry homes far away from southern Chile!

A few days later, we ¹⁰ (be) ready for the real thing. Our project ¹¹ (be) to build a simple medical centre at Casa de Pesca, a small fishing village. Up until that time, the villagers had always had to travel by horse for a day to a bigger community along the coast – Puerto Santa Cruz – to see a doctor.

While we ¹² (make) the long road journey to Puerto Santa Cruz with three four-wheel drive vehicles full of

equipment, we ¹³ (encounter) various problems and delays along the way. But when we ¹⁴ (reach) it late in the day, the village ¹⁵ (prepare) for its big annual festival, and we ¹⁶ (have) a wonderful evening with the local people.

After a slow start next morning, we ¹⁷ (load) all our equipment on to a small fishing boat, and by early afternoon we ¹⁸ (move) out to sea. While we ¹⁹ (sail) south, we ²⁰ (see) a group of dolphins and all sorts of seabirds. Amazing! Unfortunately, the weather ²¹ (turn) bad again, and the fisherman ²² (land) us at a small – but safe – natural harbour. We then ²³ (walk) the last ten kilometres along the cliff path to Casa de Pesca – and to another warm welcome. The villagers kindly ²⁴ (invite) us to stay in their homes while we ²⁵ (wait) for our tents and other equipment to arrive on the boat.

3 Past Perfect irregular forms

Answer the questions using the words in brackets. Put the verbs into the Past Perfect.

- Why didn't Luca go to get his new passport last week? (it the week before)
Because he had already been / gone to get it the week before.
- Why didn't Sally get her air ticket at the travel agent's? (it on the Internet)

- Why didn't Carlos choose this great little guide book? (a bigger one)

- Why didn't Tina and Paul meet at the information desk? (at the check-in desk)

- Why didn't Stella tell Michel about the flight change yesterday? (it the previous day)

- Why didn't Raoul send his emails from the airport? (them from home)



4 Past Simple irregular forms

Édouard Le Hérissier is on the phone from Patagonia to his girlfriend Helen. Use the words in brackets to complete his one-sentence answers. If necessary, refer back to Édouard's story in 2.

HELEN Did you begin with any kind of training when you arrived?
(week of training / practice trip / mountains)

ÉDOUARD Yes, we began with a week of training and then a practice trip into the mountains. ¹

HELEN Did you have good weather on your practice trip?
(very cold weather / lots of wind and snow)

ÉDOUARD _____ ²

HELEN Did they send you to Casa de Pesca immediately after that?
(there a few days later)

ÉDOUARD _____ ³

HELEN Did it take you long to get to the place?
(two whole days / get there)

ÉDOUARD _____ ⁴

HELEN Did you get all the way to Casa de Pesca by road?
(there by road / by fishing boat / last ten kilometres on foot)

ÉDOUARD _____ ⁵

5 Practice drills: Past Simple, Past Continuous, and Past Perfect

6.1, 6.2 Follow the instructions on the student's CD/Cassette. If necessary, refer to the Listening scripts on pp. 82–3.

Pocket Book pp. 9–10

Pronunciation Contrastive stress

6.3 Listen to the questions and answers. Mark the words or syllables which are emphasized in the answers.

- 1 *Because he had already been to get it the week before.*
- 2 *Because she had already got it on the Internet.*
- 3 *Because he had already chosen a bigger one.*
- 4 *Because they had already met at the check-in desk.*
- 5 *Because she had already told him about it the previous day.*
- 6 *Because he had already sent them from home.*

6.3 Listen again and repeat the answers.

Gerunds and infinitives

Match one verb from box A and one from box B to complete each gap in the conversations. Put the verbs from box B in the gerund or infinitive form as necessary.



A

love
need

~~mind~~
prefer

B

be
take

see
~~weigh~~

At the airport

- A Would you mind weighing ¹ your briefcase as well as your other luggage, please?
- B No, but I _____ ² it with me as hand luggage.
- A No problem, sir. Now, would you _____ ³ on the aisle or by a window?
- B Oh, I'll have a window seat, please. I _____ ⁴ the view from 30,000 feet up!



A

remember
suggest

stop
want

B

begin
get

bring
show

On the way to a meeting

- A Did you _____ ⁵ the new sample materials with you?
- B Yes, I _____ ⁶ them from Production last night.
- A Good, well I _____ ⁷ them to the client before we do our presentation.
- B All right. And by the way, do you _____ ⁸ the presentation, or shall I?
- A No, I'll go first.



A

dislike
seem

look forward to
manage

B

arrive
get

complain
travel

Arriving at the airport

- A We've only just _____ ⁹ to the airport – after two hours on the road! And now look at the crowds here. I really _____ ¹⁰
- B You always _____ ¹¹ about everything! Why not be more positive and think about tomorrow? Personally, I'm really _____ ¹² in Florida, and that's what you should focus on too!

Requests and offers

- 1 After Sarah Vine had handed in her resignation at McAlister Homes, Tom Blanchard, the Managing Director, asked to see her. Complete the conversation. Use the phrases in the box.

Requesting

... we'd like you to ...

Agreeing to / Refusing a request

Yes, of course. I'm very happy to ...

Offering

... would you like us to ...

Accepting / Declining an offer

... thank you, but I'm afraid that won't ...

- TOM Ah, Sarah. Come in and sit down.
- SARAH Thanks, Tom.
- TOM Now, Sarah, I've talked with the other directors about your plans, and we don't want to lose you if possible. So _____ ¹ consider a suggestion that we've come up with.
- SARAH _____ ² do that.
- TOM Well, here it is. If you can promise to get back in six months, _____ ³ keep your job open? We'd be glad to do that.
- SARAH Ah, well, _____ ⁴ change things. You see, I've already promised to take the placement in Guatemala for a year.
- TOM I'm really sorry to hear that, but of course I accept your decision.



- 2 Just before her departure, Sarah had a meeting with May Crawford, Placements Officer for the Guatemala project. Complete the conversation. Use the phrases in the box.

Requesting Could you ... Would you mind very much ...	Agreeing to / Refusing a request Yes, I'll do that ... I'm not sure that I want to do that.
Offering ... shall I ...	Accepting / Declining an offer Yes, if you could.

- MAY Right, the next thing. _____¹
pick up your ticket and travel money from my assistant,
Magda?
- SARAH _____² right after this
meeting. Oh, and by the way, _____³
take anything out to Guatemala for you – letters, for example?
- MAY _____⁴ I've got several things
here.
- SARAH Fine.
- MAY And now, I've got something else to ask.
_____⁵ changing your role
and becoming our part-time administration officer out there?
- SARAH This is a surprise! Mmm ...
_____⁶
- MAY Please think about it. You see, our previous administrator has
had to return to Canada suddenly, and we need someone with
management experience to do the job – and you would be
ideal!
- SARAH Well, all right, I'll try it for a while – but I still want to dig! OK?
- MAY Yes, of course. Thank you so much!

 6.4 Listen to the conversations and check your answers.



Pocket Book pp. 22–3