

Grammar: Thinking about tenses

14 Read the Part 2 Exam questions from Exercise 13 again.

- 1 How long have you known this person?
- 2 How did you meet?
- 3 What kind of person is he/she?
- 4 Explain why you like him/her.

Judging from the tenses used in each question, which tenses are you likely to use in your responses?

Exam tip: In the exam, look carefully at the tenses used in the Part 2 questions, and listen carefully to the examiner to hear which tenses they use in their questions. Does the question relate to the past, present, future, or something imagined? This will help you use the correct tenses when you speak.



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15 Listen to the sample answer to the Part 2 Exam question in Exercise 13. Then read the extracts below. What tenses does the speaker use and why does he use those tenses?

- 1 We got to know each other on the tennis courts. _____
- 2 He'd often suggest doing something and I'd go along with it. _____
- 3 We've never fallen out. _____

16 Now answer the Part 2 Exam question in Exercise 13 again, aiming for accuracy in your use of tenses.

Pronunciation: Weak and strong forms

17 Some words have two pronunciations: a strong form and a weak form. In normal speech, we usually use the weak form as in the sentences below. Look at sentences 1–5, and circle the prepositions.

- 1 Can I have a cup of tea?
- 2 We met at uni.
- 3 I've known him for ten years.
- 4 I'm from Dubai.
- 5 It's quarter to ten.



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18 Do you know the weak forms of the prepositions in Exercise 17? Listen and repeat, taking care not to stress the weak forms.

Exam tip: If you use weak forms correctly, you will be more fluent and you will sound more like a native speaker. This will get you higher marks in the exam.

Knowing about weak forms will also help you understand the examiner more easily; it is easy to miss weak forms because they are unstressed.