



Exercise 1

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct forms of these regular verbs in simple past tense.

Example: I / You / We / They / He / She / It (clean) cleaned on Monday.

- 1) I (clean) _____ my car on Monday
- 2) You (walk) _____ three miles on Tuesday.
- 3) We (cook) _____ lunch on Wednesday.
- 4) They (sew) _____ curtains on Thursday.
- 5) He (film) _____ the movie on Friday.
- 6) She (play) _____ chess on Saturday.
- 7) It (rest) _____ from its work on Sunday.



Exercise 2

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct forms of these regular verbs in simple past tense.

Note: When a regular verb ends in a consonant + “y”, the “y” is changed to “ied” to form the simple past tense.

Example: I / You / We / They / He / She / It (try) tried to buy tickets.

- 1) I (dry) _____ the dishes after dinner.
- 2) You (worry) _____ about the last test.
- 3) We (copy) _____ Sally's notes from the lecture.
- 4) They (cry) _____ when their team lost.
- 5) He (discover) _____ a new star with his telescope Saturday.
- 6) She (fry) _____ all of her food until now.
- 7) It (bury) _____ the bone in the trash.





Exercise 3

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of these regular verbs in simple past tense.

Note: When a verb has one syllable and ends in a consonant + vowel + consonant, the final consonant is doubled before adding –ed to form the simple past tense. Exceptions to this rule are words that end in 'w' or 'x', like sewed and waxed.

Example: I / You / We / They / He / She It (chop) chopped the wood.

- 1) I (trap) _____ the mouse on Monday
- 2) You (jog) _____ yesterday morning.
- 3) We (flip) _____ the pancakes at breakfast.
- 4) They (chop) _____ firewood last winter.
- 5) He (mix) _____ the chemicals together in the lab.
- 6) The nurse (help) _____ the patient to stand up.
- 7) It (tip) _____ the bucket over.



Exercise 4

Past Tense

Choose the correct forms of these irregular verbs in simple past tense.

Note: Irregular verbs have unexpected spelling changes in various tenses, including the simple past tense.

Example: I / You / We / They / He / She It [bringed brought] a gift to the wedding Saturday.

- 1) I (be) [beed was] busy painting last night.
- 2) You (make) [maked made] a good cake for his birthday.
- 3) We (choose) [choosed chose] to ride the train yesterday.
- 4) They (fall) [falied fell] while skating together.
- 5) He (keep) [keeped kept] the profits for himself.
- 6) She (meet) [meeted met] her new coach on Monday.
- 7) It (ring) [ringed rang] the bell on the birdhouse two times.





Exercise 5

Past Tense

Choose the correct forms of these irregular verbs in simple past tense.

Note: Some irregular verbs do not change their spelling in the simple past tense.

Example: I / You / We / They / He / She / It (bet) [bетted bet] on the grey horse last time.

Example: I / You / We / They / He / She / It (fit) [fitted fit] in his pocket before.

- 1) I (cut) [cutted cut] the watermelon yesterday.
- 2) You (shut) [shuttet shut] the door before it rained.
- 3) We (quit) [quitted quit] watching the movie last night.
- 4) They (hurt) [hurted hurt] their knees on the rocks.
- 5) He (put) [putted put] the book back Wednesday.
- 6) She (hit) [hitted hit] the target when she played darts.
- 7) It (cost) [costed cost] five hundred dollars in 1980.



Exercise 6

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense.
Then indicate whether the verb is regular or irregular.

Note: Some irregular verbs do not change their spelling in the simple past tense.

Example: I (catch) caught some fish on Saturday. (regular / irregular)

Example: Anna (like) liked her biology class last semester. (regular / irregular)

- 1) I (buy) _____ a new car yesterday. (regular / irregular)
- 2) You (bend) _____ the branch you stepped on. (regular / irregular)
- 3) Carlos (paint) _____ twelve portraits last year. (regular / irregular)
- 4) They (know) _____ each other years ago. (regular / irregular)
- 5) Jake (teach) _____ the class last week. (regular / irregular)
- 6) Mariel (lend) _____ me her dress for the dance. (regular / irregular)
- 7) Suzanne and John (hope) _____ to move to Seattle last month. (regular / irregular)
- 8) Tyler (frame) _____ the picture; it looked beautiful. (regular / irregular)
- 9) We (exercise) _____ on the treadmill last night. (regular / irregular)
- 10) The box (stand) _____ in the same place for a month. (regular / irregular)



Name _____

Date _____



Exercise 7

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense. Then indicate whether the verb is *regular* or *irregular*.

Example: The waiter (break) broke the glass at lunchtime. (regular / irregular)

Example: The child (jump) jumped on the trampoline in gym class. (regular / irregular)

- 1) She (be) _____ my friend in second grade. (regular / irregular)
- 2) Mr. Thomas (mow) _____ the grass yesterday morning. (regular / irregular)
- 3) Vickie and I (hide) _____ the presents before the party. (regular / irregular)
- 4) The old cars (lead) _____ the parade last year. (regular / irregular)
- 5) Mr. Jones (lay) _____ the tile in our old house. (regular / irregular)
- 6) The student (finish) _____ his big project on time. (regular / irregular)
- 7) Gerald (call) _____ his mother last Sunday. (regular / irregular)
- 8) You (do) _____ the best job. (regular / irregular)
- 9) Amy (go) _____ home afterward. (regular / irregular)
- 10) The doctor (stitch) _____ his patient's wound quickly. (regular / irregular)
- 11) The Environmental Club members (pick) _____ up trash last Friday. (regular / irregular)
- 12) The fishing boat (sink) _____ in the storm. (regular / irregular)
- 13) We (spend) _____ a lot of money on vacation last summer. (regular / irregular)
- 14) I (attend) _____ high school in Florida many years ago. (regular / irregular)
- 15) Jennie (bring) _____ a delicious salad to the party. (regular / irregular)



Name _____

Date _____



Exercise 8

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense. Then indicate whether the verb is regular or irregular.

Example: She (help) helped us clean up the mess. (regular / irregular)

Example: Jose (hit) hit the ball very hard yesterday. (regular / irregular)



- 1) I (build) _____ a bird house in September. (regular / irregular)
- 2) You (look) _____ for your keys for hours. (regular / irregular)
- 3) My friends and I (plant) _____ flowers on Saturday. (regular / irregular)
- 4) John and Sarah (choose) _____ a new home. (regular / irregular)
- 5) The boy (grow) _____ twelve inches last year. (regular / irregular)
- 6) Claire (walk) _____ ten miles last weekend. (regular / irregular)
- 7) The store (sell) _____ winter clothes until last month. (regular / irregular)
- 8) Joe (come) _____ to the meeting, but he was late. (regular / irregular)
- 9) You (pay) _____ the workers already. (regular / irregular)
- 10) The manager (open) _____ the store early this past Christmas. (regular / irregular)
- 11) It was time for the race. The swimmers all (dive) _____ into the pool at once.
(regular / irregular)
- 12) The tire on Toni's bike was flat, so she (change) _____ it. (regular / irregular)
- 13) A snake (bite) _____ the ranger's hand when he reached into a pile of wood.
(regular / irregular)
- 14) I (think) _____ it would be easy to make pottery, but I discovered that it is not.
(regular / irregular)
- 15) The children (cheer) _____ when the ice cream truck arrived. (regular / irregular)



Exercise 9

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense. Then, indicate whether the verb is regular or irregular.

Example: Mrs. Anderson (forget) forgot her husband's last birthday. (regular / irregular)

Example: We (hike) hiked to the top of the hill last fall. (regular / irregular)

- 1) I (begin) _____ the new project last week. (regular / irregular)
- 2) You (push) _____ the cart too hard and it crashed. (regular / irregular)
- 3) Jim and I (move) _____ the furniture in July, 2010. (regular / irregular)
- 4) The pelicans (find) _____ lots of fish to eat Thursday afternoon. (regular / irregular)
- 5) Our teacher (send) _____ the box to Oregon a week ago. (regular / irregular)
- 6) Jennifer (bake) _____ a lot of cookies for that party. (regular / irregular)
- 7) The lion (spend) _____ the night hunting. (regular / irregular)
- 8) The girl (stand) _____ in the rain for five minutes. (regular / irregular)
- 9) Callie (act) _____ in the play last fall. (regular / irregular)
- 10) Steven (give) _____ a donation five years ago. (regular / irregular)



Exercise 10

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense. Then indicate whether the verb is regular or irregular.

Example: They (eat) ate vegetables for dinner. (regular / irregular)

Example: The hikers (fear) feared they were lost. (regular / irregular).

- 1) Aunt Nancy (join) _____ me for lunch last Wednesday. (regular / irregular)
- 2) My cousin and I (ride) _____ the train last week. (regular / irregular)
- 3) The guests (drink) _____ juice yesterday morning. (regular / irregular)
- 4) We (swim) _____ in the lake on Tuesday. (regular / irregular)
- 5) The lawyers (present) _____ their cases last Friday. (regular / irregular)
- 6) The bad weather (surprise) _____ us in July. (regular / irregular)
- 7) The brothers (scare) _____ the kittens away. (regular / irregular)
- 8) Christy (run) _____ two miles in the race. (regular / irregular)
- 9) Maggie (leave) _____ the party early. (regular / irregular)
- 10) Christopher and Wes (light) _____ the campfire. (regular / irregular)





Exercise 11

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense. Some verbs are regular and some are irregular.



Example: I (like) liked to ride our horse when I (be) was younger.

Example: We (go) went to New England in 2007. We (buy) bought maple syrup.

- 1) The professor (teach) _____ five classes Monday. He (be) _____ very tired afterward.
- 2) You (feed) _____ the birds that we saw yesterday. Some of them (be) _____ cardinals.
- 3) Andy (go) _____ first on the trail Saturday, because he (know) _____ the way better than we did.
- 4) The house (be) _____ dirty after they left. We (clean) _____ it yesterday.
- 5) The boys (put) _____ the motorcycles in the garage, then they (eat) _____ lunch.
- 6) My friends and I (find) _____ some gold in the river. Then we (look) _____ for more.
- 7) I (like) _____ to write poetry when I (be) _____ eight years old.
- 8) Charlotte and I (see) _____ lightening in the sky Thursday night; the storm (come) _____ fast.
- 9) The children (go) _____ to the park yesterday. They (stay) _____ for two hours.
- 10) We (play) _____ outside after it (snow) _____. Three inches of snow (fall) _____ that day.



Exercise 12

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense. Some verbs are regular and some are irregular. Some sentences use forms of the words "do" and "not" after the verb to make the sentence negative.

Note: Some irregular verbs do not change their spelling in the simple past tense.

Example: Chuck (send) sent the mail. He (do, not, remember) did not remember the letter.

Example: The driver (move) moved his truck; he (want) wanted to make room for the cars.

1) The dog (bite) _____ the neighbor. The neighbor (call) _____ the police.



2) My sister (hang) _____ the picture on Saturday. I (tell) _____ her that I (do, not, like) _____ _____ it.

3) Sam always (like) _____ to play soccer with his friends. Some of his friends (be) _____ from Mexico. They (play) _____ very well.

4) The Johnson family (fly) _____ in a plane last week. They (go) _____ to Denver to ski.

5) The cooler (hold) _____ water for thirsty runners at the race. There (be, not) _____ enough for everyone.

6) I (do, not, think) _____ that color was pretty. It (look) _____ mud to me, so I (pick) _____ a different color.

7) The children (dig) _____ a deep hole in the sand. They (play) _____ at the beach all afternoon.

8) She (do, not, plant) _____ tomatoes this year. Her tomatoes (die) _____ last year before they (grow) _____ very much.

9) The store (sell) _____ a lot of televisions in December. People (want) _____ to give them as Christmas presents.

10) The prisoner (leave) _____ the jail early; he (do, not, serve) _____ his full sentence.



Exercise 13

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in simple past tense.

Note: In this exercise, adverbs, like still, already, usually, frequently, slowly, quickly and others—are used in simple past tense verbs. An adverb tells us something more about the action of the verb. It is said to "modify" the verb.

Example: Savannah (quickly, swim) quickly swam the first two laps of the race.

- 1) Jared (frequently, drive) _____ his father's truck to work last summer.
- 2) Mr. and Mrs. Porter (usually, stay) _____ at Cape Hatteras for the season.
- 3) Susan (already, play) _____ the flute well before she began to play the piccolo.
- 4) The sun (slowly, drop) _____ below the horizon as we watched.
- 5) The principal (kindly, speak) _____ to the crying child.
- 6) The children (normally, wait) _____ for the bus on the corner of Walnut and Elm Streets.
- 7) The old house (still, look) _____ just as it had when he last visited.
- 8) The artist (quickly, draw) _____ a cartoon as the crowd watched.
- 9) Mrs. Campos (patiently, wait) _____ for the nurse to call her into the examining room.
- 10) The passengers (happily, cheer) _____ as their hot air balloon lifted from the ground.





Exercise 14

Review of the Simple Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense.

When Abby (be) _____⁽¹⁾ seven years old, she (do, not, like) _____ _____
_____⁽²⁾ piano lessons. She (do, not, like) _____ _____ _____⁽³⁾ to practice,
and sometimes she even (cry) _____⁽⁴⁾ when it (be) _____⁽⁵⁾ time to
practice. Finally, she (stop) _____⁽⁶⁾ taking lessons.



Some of Abby's friends (do, not, quit) _____ _____ _____⁽⁷⁾ their
lessons. They (continue) _____⁽⁸⁾ to play. After much practice, they
(learn) _____⁽⁹⁾ to play very well.

About ten years (pass) _____⁽¹⁰⁾ before Abby (become) _____⁽¹¹⁾ interested in
music or the piano again. After she (graduate) _____⁽¹²⁾ from high school, Abby
(decide) _____⁽¹³⁾ that she (want) _____⁽¹⁴⁾ to study music in college. She (call)
_____⁽¹⁵⁾ the lady who (teach) _____⁽¹⁶⁾ her when she (be) _____⁽¹⁷⁾ a little girl.
The lady (say) _____⁽¹⁸⁾ she would teach Abby again.

The lady (need) _____⁽¹⁹⁾ someone to help her daughter with homework. Abby
(say) _____⁽²⁰⁾ she would help with homework in exchange for lessons. Because of
this, the piano lessons (cost) _____⁽²¹⁾ her nothing!

She (work) _____⁽²²⁾ very hard to catch up. Now she is making good progress.
Soon she will go to college, majoring in music.



Exercise 15

Past Tense

Choose the correct form of the verb in past progressive tense.

Note: This tense describes actions that were in progress in the past. It uses the helping verb "was" with the pronouns I / He / She / It, and "were" with the pronouns You / We / They. Then, -ing is added to the base form of the verb.

Example: I / He / She / It / (wash) was washing the car yesterday.

Example: You / We / They (wear) were wearing their old clothes at the cabin.

- 1) I [was walking / were walking] through the mall Tuesday.
- 2) He [was playing / were playing] baseball until four o'clock.
- 3) You [was watching / were watching] the sunset last night.
- 4) They [was staying / were staying] at the same hotel that year.
- 5) She [was smelling / were smelling] the coffee when she woke up.
- 6) We [was planting / were planting] the garden on May 15th.
- 7) It [was barking / were barking] loudly at the cat.



Exercise 16

Past Tense

Choose the correct form of the verb in past progressive tense.

Note: With some verbs, the last letter of the verb must be doubled in past progressive tense before adding -ing. The rule for doubling is: when a one-syllable verb ends with consonant-vowel-consonant, the final consonant is doubled. If the verb is longer than one syllable, the final consonant is doubled only if the stress falls on the last syllable. Exceptions: never double the letters h,w,x,y.

Example: I / He / She / It / (get) was getting a new bicycle before the race.

Example: You / We / They (plan) were planning to travel last fall.

Example: I / He / She / It / (sew) was sewing robes for the choir.

- 1) I [was swiming / was swimming] a lot during the summer.
- 2) We [were siting / were sitting] on the rocks by the river.
- 3) They [were runing / were running] faster than anyone else in that race.
- 4) He [was stoping / was stopping] often to tie his shoe.
- 5) It [was fiting / was fitting] until she gained weight.
- 6) She [was waxing / was waxxing] her skis before the trip.
- 7) You [were shoping / were shopping] all day yesterday.



Exercise 17

Past Tense

Choose the correct form of the verb in parentheses in past progressive tense. With verbs that end with a silent 'e', the final 'e' is dropped before adding -ing.

Example: I / He / She / It / (hope) was hoping to see the concert.

Example: You / We / They (waste) were wasting too much gas.

- 1) I [was biking / were biking] to school last semester.
- 2) He [was making / were making] a model airplane.
- 3) We [was caring / were caring] for the sick children in March.
- 4) You [was taking / were taking] too much time.
- 5) It [was becoming / were becoming] colder that evening.
- 6) She [was looking / were looking] at the sign.
- 7) They [was shining / were shining] the car for the parade.



Exercise 18

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in past progressive tense

Example: The rain (fall) was falling hard when we got home.

Example: We (jog) were jogging after work yesterday.

Example: Jenny (write) was writing a letter this morning.

- 1) Dr. Andrews (call) _____ his patient earlier today.
- 2) My brother and I (buy) _____ donuts for breakfast at nine o'clock this morning.
- 3) Becky (skate) _____ when she fell and broke her ankle.
- 4) They (bake) _____ twelve cherry pies yesterday.
- 5) Ms. Rodriguez (teach) _____ three classes last year while Mr. Leonard was teaching two.
- 6) The child (play) _____ a game with his friend when his mother called him.
- 7) The Senate (meet) _____ in a closed session on Tuesday.
- 8) The statues (sit) _____ on the lawn for decades.
- 9) The comedians (joke) _____ with the audience earlier.
- 10) She (think) _____ of traveling to Spain, but her mother became ill, so she stayed home to care for her.



Exercise 19

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in past progressive tense.

Example: Grandpa (feed) was feeding applesauce to the baby at lunchtime.

Example: Carmen: What were you doing on the roof?

Marco: I (try) was trying to fix the shingles.

1) He (map) _____ the city last year.

2) The scouts (walk) _____ on the Appalachian Trail when it began to rain.

3) Eddie: Which sign were you looking for?

Tommy: I (look) _____ for the "Ranger Station" sign.



4) Last Friday at ten o'clock, the boss (pay) _____ the workers.

5) Hannah (sew) _____ costumes for the play; she finished them.

6) The retirees (go) _____ on a bus trip last September; they wanted to see Yosemite.

7) Mildred: What did you want to find in that store?

Harriet: I (hope) _____ to find a souvenir, but there were none that I liked.

8) Red ants (bite) _____ our ankles yesterday until we used insecticide.

9) The girls (row) _____ their canoe down the Chattahoochee River.

10) When we saw Prince, he (dig) _____ a hole to bury a large bone.



Exercise 20

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in past progressive tense.

Example: The guests (drink) were drinking lemonade on the veranda. They (enjoy) were enjoying it very much.

Example: Chef Julian (bake) was baking a special cake; he (decorate) was decorating it with silver and pink bows.

Example: The band (set) was setting up its equipment. The drums (shine) were shining brightly.



- 1) Sarah and her husband (watch) _____ the recital last night. The sopranos (sing) _____ first.
- 2) The clerk (put) _____ wallets on the shelf yesterday. James (look) _____ for a brown one.
- 3) The hedge (grow) _____ very fast last summer, so it needed trimming every week.
- 4) Our flight (leave) _____ at five o'clock and we did not want to miss it.
- 5) The students at the college (wear) _____ torn jeans in 2010.
- 6) Six children (hide) _____ eggs at Easter; they (get) _____ anxious for the Easter egg hunt to start. It started when the teacher blew the whistle.
- 7) The ship (bounce) _____ on the waves. The wind (blow) _____ harder each minute. The storm (scare) _____ the passengers.
- 8) Eli (share) _____ his toy trucks with William yesterday. They (race) _____ the orange truck against the blue one when the blue one crashed.
- 9) Tracy (fix) _____ my computer Monday afternoon when she located some new viruses.
- 10) You (spend) _____ a lot of time on social networks last night. I thought you (do) _____ your homework!



Exercise 21

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in past progressive tense, then indicate *affirmative* (+) or *negative* (-).

Note: The previous exercises used the past progressive tense in the affirmative. Some of the sentences in this exercise use it in the negative.

Example: I (shop) was shopping for the perfect gift. (+) (-)

Example: Joe and Jeremy were not riding motorcycles to work until yesterday. (+) (-)

1) Josh (learn) _____ to drive the van. (+) (-)

2) Our neighbor (not, mow) _____ his grass very often. It looked terrible. (+) (-)

3) The witness (not, hide) _____ any evidence. (+) (-)

4) Holly and Gina (take) _____ care of the puppy while we were away.
(+) (-)

5) The zookeeper (feed) _____ the ocelots earlier today. (+) (-)



6) The cafeteria (not, serve) _____ ice cream yesterday. (+) (-)

7) The soloist (sing) _____ an aria a minute ago. (+) (-)

8) The girls (not, listen) _____ to the teacher's directions. (+) (-)

9) Warren (not, surf) _____ Saturday; the ocean was calm. (+) (-)

10) Lori and I (run) _____ at the track every day last week. (+) (-)



Exercise 22

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in past progressive tense.

Note: In this exercise, adverbs, like *still*, *already*, *usually*, *frequently*, *slowly* and *others*—are used in past progressive verbs. An adverb tells us something more about the action of the verb. It is said to "modify" the verb.

Example: Two turtles (slowly, cross) were slowly crossing the dusty road when we passed by.

- 1) When I was young, Grandma (usually, bake) _____ bread on Monday mornings.
- 2) When he attended football games, Jack (always, wear) _____ his team's colors.
- 3) Although you bought a beautiful new car, you (still, drive) _____ your old one when we saw you downtown.
- 4) When we arrived at the track meet, Juanita (already, run) _____ the 100-meter race.
- 5) Seagulls (frequently, steal) _____ from the fishermen's nets as they pulled them in.
- 6) The Morgans (rarely, travel) _____ during the year they remodeled their home.
- 7) Joyce (sometimes, make) _____ pottery when the phone rang, so she could not answer.
- 8) Jeff was resigned; his father (never, come) _____ back home again.
- 9) The two roommates (normally, clean) _____ their apartment on Saturday afternoons last semester.
- 10) As he sat by the sunny window, the novelist (quickly, write) _____ the first chapter of his new book.



Exercise 23

Review of the Past Progressive Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in past progressive tense.

Tim is a firefighter. One Sunday, he (spend) _____ (1) some time at home with his family. He (play) _____ (2) a game with two of his daughters.

Tim noticed that his cell phone (ring) _____ (3), and that the fire alarm downtown (blare) _____ (4), too. He (not, feel) _____ (5) anxious to go put out a fire, but he went anyway.

While Tim (race) _____ (6) to the fire in his red pick-up truck, he heard on his police radio that a trailer (burn) _____ (7), and that a small boy (sleep) _____ (8) in one of its bedrooms. His mother could not get him out.

At the scene, policemen and firefighters (run) _____ (9) and yelling.



Most of the trailer (already, burn) _____ (10) by that time. Tim said he would go in through a bedroom window to get the boy. He (not, think) _____ (11) about his own safety at all. He wore a mask to protect against the smoke.

When Tim reached the boy, it appeared that the boy (still, breathe) _____ (12). Tim put his own mask on the boy and handed him out the window to the other firefighters. By the time Tim got out of the window, he (not, breathe) _____ (13) well on his own, and had to go to the hospital.

Tim got an award for bravery from the City Council at its next meeting. The members knew he (put) _____ (14) his life at risk when he went into that trailer.



Exercise 24

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense or past progressive tense.

Example: Jing (talk) was talking (past progressive tense) to her little sister when her cell phone (lose) lost (simple past tense) its signal.

Example: Ashley and Manny (stroll) were strolling (past progressive tense) through the zoo when, suddenly, they (see) saw (simple past tense) a lion attack its trainer.

1) We (walk) _____ by the bakery when the smell of fresh cinnamon rolls (reach) _____ our noses.

2) Dr. Lee (treat) _____ her patient when she (get) _____ a signal from her pager.

3) Annie and Lilly (climb) _____ trees when Annie (fall) _____ and (break) _____ her arm.



4) While Christopher (dig) _____ a hole in the sand, a crab (crawl) _____ out.

5) They (sit) _____ on the park bench when the fountain suddenly (light) _____ up.

6) David (ride) _____ his motorcycle on the dirt road when it (hit) _____ a dangerous bump.

7) Mr. Walker (earn) _____ more than anyone else in his division when he (retire) _____ last year.

8) The lost dog (wear) _____ his collar when the children (find) _____ him.

9) Marcella (hope) _____ to buy a yacht; instead she (buy) _____ a small fishing boat.

10) Nick (water) _____ the plants in the garden when a groundhog (appear) _____.



Exercise 25

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense or past progressive tense.

Example: Colleen (determine) determined (simple past tense) that she would go to law school after speaking with her father.

Example: Our swim team (practice) was practicing (past progressive tense) the relay in an outdoor pool when the storm (begin) began. (simple past tense)

Example: We (like) liked (simple past tense) the small Italian restaurant best because it (offer) offered (simple past tense) delicious linguine Alfredo.

1) The beginning art students (decide) _____ to make collages as their first project.



2) You (wear) _____ that shirt every time I saw you last week!

3) The speeding car (crash) _____ into a telephone pole last night.

4) The club members (walk) _____ for charity when the rain (begin) _____ to fall.

5) Joe (forgive) _____ his sister Carrie for telling her friends his secret.

6) The girls (want) _____ to watch the old movie again after it (end) _____.

7) Daniel and Katherine (make) _____ a big announcement at last Sunday's dinner; they are having a baby!

8) The Smith family's ancestors (live) _____ in Virginia when the war started.

9) The inn (close) _____ after the Gold Rush (end) _____.

10) The company's CEO (introduce) _____ the keynote speaker when the microphone suddenly (make) _____ a terrible noise.



Exercise 26

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense or past progressive tense.

Note: The word 'not' is used with some of the verbs to make a negative expression.

Example: The teenagers (joke) were joking (past progressive tense) around in the hallway when the principle (tell) told (simple past tense) them to go to class.

Example: The sisters (plan) were planning (past progressive tense) a family reunion for spring, but their brother (do, not, want) did not want simple past tense) to attend.

1) Claudia (learn) _____ to be a chef when she (win) _____ a national recipe contest.

2) Aaron (enjoy) _____ the old car show so much, he (do, not, remember) _____ that he had an appointment.

3) The band members (play) _____ a concert when Adrienne's clarinet (squeak) _____. She (feel) _____ embarrassed.

4) The Apollo 13 astronauts (prepare) _____ to land on the moon when

they (discover) _____ a problem with the spaceship. Unfortunately, they (do, not, land) _____.



5) Caroline (try) _____ to find a job in Portland when she (hear) _____ about a great opportunity in Orlando.

6) You (sail) _____ near Barbados when your ship (strike) _____ a sand bar; you (do, not, like) _____ waiting for help to come.

7) Cody and Matthew (sit) _____ on a rocky ledge when a snake (crawl) _____ out of its hole nearby. They (do, not, see) _____ it until it (get) _____ very close to them.

8) Sue (take) _____ her medicine just as the doctor (order) _____ when he (decide) _____ to add another drug to her plan.

9) The Johnsons (tour) _____ the Mediterranean when they (call) _____ us last November. They (do, not, want) _____ to come home.

10) I (look) _____ for information about my ancestors when I (find) _____ that some of them (be) _____ aboard the Mayflower.



Exercise 27

Review of simple past tense and past progressive tense.

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past tense or past progressive tense.

Last week, as Karla (walk) _____ ⁽¹⁾ in her neighborhood, a puppy suddenly (appear) _____ ⁽²⁾ and (run) _____ ⁽³⁾ between her legs!

This (be) _____ ⁽⁴⁾ a surprise, and she (laugh) _____ ⁽⁵⁾ out loud.

Karla likes dogs a lot, so she (stop) _____ ⁽⁶⁾ to pet the puppy. He was very playful. While she (try) _____ ⁽⁷⁾ to pet him, he (nip) _____ ⁽⁸⁾ her fingers.



To Karla, the puppy (look) _____ ⁽⁹⁾ like a terrier mix. He (be) _____ ⁽¹⁰⁾ wiry, white, and fuzzy. He (have) _____ ⁽¹¹⁾ big ears, and he (wiggle) _____ ⁽¹²⁾ and wagging his tail without stopping.

Karla (begin) _____ ⁽¹³⁾ walking again, and (notice) _____ ⁽¹⁴⁾ that the puppy (follow) _____ ⁽¹⁵⁾ her home. He (seem) _____ ⁽¹⁶⁾ happy that he (have) _____ ⁽¹⁷⁾ a friend to walk with.

The puppy stayed with Karla until they (come) _____ ⁽¹⁸⁾ to a yard where there (be) _____ ⁽¹⁹⁾ some big dogs behind a fence. The dogs (bark) _____ ⁽²⁰⁾ and growling at the woman and the puppy.

The puppy (stop) _____ ⁽²¹⁾. He (tremble) _____ ⁽²²⁾ and whining. He (do, not, want) _____ ⁽²³⁾ to go any further. He (turn) _____ ⁽²⁴⁾ around and (run) _____ ⁽²⁵⁾ home quickly without looking back. Karla hopes she will see her new friend again.



Exercise 28

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past perfect tense.

Note: This tense describes actions that have been completed before other past actions. It can also describe actions that happened in the distant past (other actions have happened since then).

When used in the simple past perfect tense, the past participle (the word that comes after "had") is often regular, and therefore retains its simple past tense spelling. In this exercise and in Exercise 29, all of the past participles requested are regular.

Example: I / You / We / They / He / She / It (hike) had hiked some difficult trails before that trip to Colorado.



- 1) I (study) _____ extremely hard before the test was given.
- 2) You (pick) _____ a lot of tomatoes from your garden before we had any ripe ones in ours.
- 3) We (expect) _____ to find many vacant hotel rooms, but we only found one.
- 4) They (play) _____ in the Super Bowl in 1990, so they were more prepared in 1995.
- 5) He (enjoy) _____ color photography before he tried black-and-white film.
- 6) She (look) _____ all over town for a formal dress before she found one she liked.
- 7) It (jump) _____ out of its cage just before we arrived at the zoo!



Exercise 29

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past perfect tense.

Note: All of the past participles used in this exercise are regular.
(See note at exercise 28.)

Example: Vikings (invade) had invaded England long before the Angles and Saxons arrived.

- 1) Tonya (work) _____ as a decorator before she opened her shop.
- 2) My daughter and I (enjoy) _____ the ballet so much that we wanted to see it again.
- 3) The power supply (fail) _____ during the night, so the house got cold.
- 4) You (call) _____ earlier in the day, so we knew you were on your way.
- 5) The cat (scratch) _____ a hole in the sofa before its owner noticed.
- 6) John and Nikki (start) _____ their bakery long before the big one came to town.
- 7) The alligators at the edge of the pond (scare) _____ us until we realized they were behind a fence.
- 8) The defense attorney (argue) _____ before Judge Sanchez prior to last June's trial.
- 9) The trumpet player (finish) _____ his solo before the trombonist stood up.
- 10) Mark (behave) _____ well at the playground, so his mother bought him a treat.





Exercise 30

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past perfect tense.

Note: As noted in Exercise 28, when used in the simple past perfect tense, the past participle is often regular. In Exercises 28 and 29, we concentrated on the regular form. However, for irregular verbs, like the ones used in this exercise, the spelling and pronunciation gets changed.

Example: He (wrote) had written a book about bass fishing before he began the one on fishing boats.

- 1) You (know) _____ about conditions in the Middle East long before you made that trip.
- 2) Robert (begin) _____ to research his family history a year before he visited Ireland.
- 3) The Kowalske family (eat) _____ organic vegetables even before they planted their garden.
- 4) Before the treasure hunt started, Ryan's mother (hide) _____ clues in the yard.
- 5) Jenna (ride) _____ her bike 12 miles; now she was sore.
- 6) The geese (fly) _____ from Michigan to Florida before the first snow fell.
- 7) Mrs. Hughes (fall) _____ several times in the past, so she decided to get a walker.
- 8) The choir (sing) _____ together many times before its tour of Europe last month.
- 9) Bill (write) _____ three cookbooks before his book on baking with chocolate was released.
- 10) Olga was amused when Seventies styles returned; she (wear) _____ them since high school!



Exercise 31

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past perfect tense. Then indicate whether the past participle is *regular* or *irregular*.

Note: This exercise offers practice in using negatives in the simple past perfect tense.

Example: Huan (not, want) had not wanted to study chemistry last semester.
(regular / irregular)

- 1) We (not, stand) _____ in the rain long before the gates were opened. (regular / irregular)
- 2) Russ and Becca (not, have) _____ much experience with building before they started their deck. (regular / irregular)
- 3) The Wilsons (not, save) _____ enough money to pay their taxes before the deadline arrived. (regular / irregular)
- 4) He and Carlos (not, work) _____ for six months, then the company rehired them. (regular / irregular)
- 5) The batter (not, swing) _____ at any pitches before he was hit by the ball. (regular / irregular)
- 6) Ivan (not, take) _____ a coat with him; now the temperature was dropping fast. (regular / irregular)
- 7) Carl (not, sleep) _____ long enough when his mother woke him up. (regular / irregular)
- 8) The mechanic (not, fix) _____ the engine yet when we called him last Saturday. (regular / irregular)
- 9) Tyler (not, surf) _____ until he visited his brother in San Diego (regular / irregular).
- 10) The city employees (not, expect) _____ to get a raise in last year's budget. (regular / irregular)



Name _____

Date _____



Exercise 32

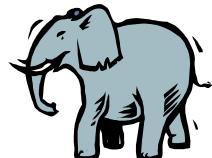
Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past perfect tense. Then indicate whether the past participle is *regular* or *irregular*.

Note: In this exercise, adverbs, like *still*, *already*, *usually*, *frequently*, *never*, and others—are used in verbs which are in the simple past perfect tense. An adverb tells us something more about the action of the verb. It is said to "modify" the verb.

Example: You (already, ring) had already rung the bell before it was time for class.
(regular / irregular)

- 1) Christy (already, adopt) _____ several dogs before she adopted Molly. (regular / irregular)
- 2) Seth (seldom, play) _____ soccer before he tried out for his school's team. (regular / irregular)
- 3) That species of elephant (recently, disappear) _____ from the area, so we were not able to see it. (regular / irregular)
- 4) It was a good year for Melissa; she (quickly, sell) _____ her quota of houses and was rewarded with a vacation. (regular / irregular)
- 5) Edward (never, forgive) _____ Elise; now he was leaving her. (regular / irregular)
- 6) The company (seriously, consider) _____ moving its plant to Iowa, but chose Oregon instead. (regular / irregular)
- 7) Lucia (frequently, think) _____ about returning to her home in Costa Rica before she found a job in New York. (regular / irregular)
- 8) The history class members (usually, watch) _____ a movie the day before a test. (regular / irregular)
- 9) The new citizens (solemnly, swear) _____ their loyalty to the country when they took the oath. (regular / irregular)
- 10) The car (still, cost) _____ Jamie \$15,000, even after the price was reduced. (regular / irregular)



Name _____

Date _____



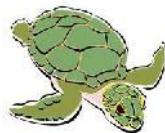
Exercise 33

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in past perfect progressive tense.

Note: This tense describes actions which were ongoing before other past actions, or which were ongoing in the distant past. It uses the helping verb phrase "had been" followed by the verb + "ing".

Example: I / You / We / They / He / She / It had been watching the fish in the aquarium before w the giant turtle appeared.



- 1) Before I bought my new boat, I (go) _____ to the boat show every day to see the newest models.
- 2) You (talk) _____ to Whitney before the show began.
- 3) We (think) _____ about buying an electric car even before the price of gas went up.
- 4) They (race) _____ cars at that track for twenty years before it closed.
- 5) He (drive) _____ too fast all afternoon before the accident happened.
- 6) After she died, it was discovered that she (make) _____ secret donations to the shelter for years.
- 7) We (grow) _____ grapes for twelve years before we decided to open a winery.

Name _____

Date _____



Exercise 34

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in past perfect progressive tense.

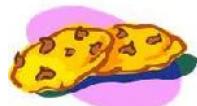
Note: Some of the sentences in this exercise provide practice using the negative in past perfect progressive tense.

Example: The forest (burn) had been burning for a week before the fire was put out.

Example: The firefighters (not, sleep) had not been sleeping at all until more help arrived.

1) Tony's knee (ache) _____ until the coach bandaged it.

2) Sean and Melinda (not, keep) _____ good financial records before they got an accountant to help them.



3) The owner of the cookie shop (plan) _____ to add two more ovens before the building burned.

4) My family and I (live) _____ in the Florida Keys before we decided to move to the northern part of the state.

5) The peaches (not, hang) _____ on the trees for long before the birds ate them.

6) The lake (supply) _____ water for the town since 1902. Now it was too polluted.

7) Crystal (paint) _____ the walls before she ran out of paint.

8) The colony's independent farmers (feel) _____ resentful about English rule and taxation long before the Revolution.

9) Mrs. Esposito (not, cook) _____ very much until Vincent arrived and asked for his favorite dishes.

10) Until Nigel joined a fraternity, he (call) _____ his father every Saturday.



Exercise 35

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in past perfect progressive tense.

Note: In this exercise, adverbs, like *still*, *already*, *usually*, *frequently*, *never*, and *others*—are used in verbs which are in the past perfect progressive tense. An adverb tells us something more about the action of the verb. It is said to "modify" the verb.

Example: Before the horse broke his leg, he (usually, race) had usually been running two races each month.

- 1) The villagers (normally, carry) _____ water for miles before the new well was dug.
- 2) The gymnastics team (still, practice) _____ hard at nine o'clock p.m.
- 3) When Mrs. Stein awoke at six o'clock a.m., her husband (already, milk) _____ the cows for an hour.
- 4) The cat (always, scratch) _____ holes in the furniture before Jody bought him a scratching board.
- 5) Natalie (often, find) _____ small shells on the beach, which she was using to make jewelry.
- 6) The children (seldom, read) _____ books before the nanny began taking them to the library.
- 7) Trina (never, ski) _____ before her family moved to the mountains.
- 8) John and Carrie (happily, prepare) _____ a room for a baby boy before they discovered that they would have a girl.
- 9) Our mail carrier (faithfully, bring) _____ our mail for over 30 years before he retired.
- 10) The dog next door (persistently bark) _____ each night that summer, keeping us awake.





Exercise 36

Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in parentheses in simple past, perfect tense or progressive tense.



Jill knew that her friend Sasha (feel) _____ (1) sad lately.

Sasha's mother (die) _____ (2) two months before, and the two friends (not, have) _____ (3) a chance to talk since it happened.

Sasha arrived at Jill's house at three o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Jill (call) _____ (4) her friend on Friday to invite her to over for coffee and cookies.

Glancing at the mess in the kitchen, Sasha guessed that Jill (bake) _____ (5) cookies all day.

The women talked for a couple of hours. They (always, enjoy) _____ (6) each other's company in the past, and were happy to be together again. Sasha recalled some of the things that she (find) _____ (7) as she (sort) _____ (8) through her mother's belongings.

"It seems that, for some time before Mom died, she (make) _____ (9) three scrapbooks," said Sasha. "The last one (never, be) _____ (10) completed."

"What did they contain?" asked Jill.

"One contained all of the awards I (win) _____ (11) before I reached sixth grade," answered Sasha, "along with pictures of my friends and me. I knew that mom (always, take) _____ (12) lots of pictures, but I didn't know how many. The second was a collection of memorabilia from my high school years."

"And the third?" prompted Jill.

Sasha paused and smiled before answering, "Mom and I (often, go) _____ (13) on walks together to gather wildflowers before I became a teenager," Sasha replied. "Before she died, she (make) _____ (14) a scrapbook to hold all of the flowers we (collect) _____ (15)."



Exercise 37

Cumulative Review of the Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in any aspect of the past tense.



Eric and Ilsa are brother and sister. They (grow) _____⁽¹⁾ up together in the city that used to be known as West Berlin, in the former West Germany. Eric (move) _____⁽²⁾ to the United States decades ago, before the eastern and western parts of both Berlin and Germany were reunited in 1990.

Ilsa and her family (visit) _____⁽³⁾ Eric and his family last year. Ilsa's Family (fly) _____⁽⁴⁾ from Berlin to Detroit for the visit. Although the children (never, meet) _____⁽⁵⁾ before, except through e-mail, the families (have) _____⁽⁶⁾ a great time together.

Every day for a week, the adults and the children (play) _____⁽⁷⁾, talking, and eating together. One day, they (cook) _____⁽⁸⁾ some German recipes that (be) _____⁽⁹⁾ in the family for generations. For years, Ilsa (save) _____⁽¹⁰⁾ them and treasuring them in a box their mother (give) _____⁽¹¹⁾ her just before she (die) _____⁽¹²⁾. One of their mother's favorites (be) _____⁽¹³⁾ a dessert called Apple Kuchen.

One night after everyone else (already, go) _____⁽¹⁴⁾ to bed, Eric and Ilsa (quietly, sit) _____⁽¹⁵⁾ and talking.

"What have you (miss) _____⁽¹⁶⁾ most about Berlin?" Ilsa wanted to know.

Eric (pause) _____⁽¹⁷⁾, then answered, "Mostly, I miss living in a city with such wonderful landmarks. The kids and I (look) _____⁽¹⁸⁾ at some books about Berlin and Germany for a while before you and your family (arrive) _____⁽¹⁹⁾. We (discuss) _____⁽²⁰⁾ the Brandenburg Gate when Franz interrupted to ask why its image (use) _____⁽²¹⁾ as a design on some of the coins back when Germany had converted its money to euros."

"What (do) _____⁽²²⁾ you tell him?" Ilsa asked.

"I (say) _____⁽²³⁾ that I (not, be) _____⁽²⁴⁾ sure," answered Eric, "but that I (think) _____⁽²⁵⁾ it was because the gate (become) _____⁽²⁶⁾ a symbol for Germany, like the Statue of Liberty had emerged as a symbol for the United States."