Past Tense - Workbook

**Exercise 1: Past Perfect vs Past Simple**

1. They (be) amazed. They (hear, never) of this song.

2. If only she (keep) quiet! (referring to the past)

3. John (be) upset because his application (be, turn down).

4. I (never, eat) such a huge pizza before I (go) to Italy.

5. By the time his heart (be) transplanted, he (undergo) many medical procedures.

6. After I (do) the washing-up, I (watch) my favorite TV program.

7. The show (already, start) when we (arrive).

**Exercise 2: Past Continuous vs Past Simple.**

1. We (go) down the road at 100 kph when the wheel (fall) off.

2. He nearly (have) a heart attack when he (see) the bear.

3. Uncle Ben (get) dressed when he (feel) a sharp pain in his chest

4. The winning racing driver (shake) the bottle then (take) the cork out.

5. She (fill) in a questionnaire when the pen (run)out of ink.

6. They (watch) TV when the lights (go) off.

7. Mike (not see) his friend because he (face) the other way.

**Exercise 3: Past Simple, Past Perfect and Past Continuous**

Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who (be) usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table. I

(stand) upon the hearth-rug and

(pick up) the stick which our

visitor (leave) behind him the night before. It was a fine, thick piece of wood,

bulbous-headed, of the sort which is known as a "Penang lawyer." Just under the head (be) a broad silver band nearly an inch across. "To James Mortimer, M.R.C.S., from his

friends of the C.C.H.," was (engrave) upon it, with the date "1884." It was just such

a stick as the old-fashioned family practitioner used to carry--dignified, solid, and

reassuring."Well, Watson, what (you make) of it?" Holmes

(sit) with his

back to me, and I (give) him no sign of my occupation. "How (you know)

what I (do)? I (believe) you have eyes in the back of your head."

**Exercise 4: Past Tense Advanced**

Julie (walk) for hours when she suddenly noticed that the sun (sink) in the sky. She (lose) track of time because she (think) about the most important decision she'd ever had to make in her life.

Things (not be) the same between Julie and her fiance, David, since he accepted a job in Paris. They (know) each other for almost five years, and in that time, they had never argued much. Lately, though, their relationship (become) stormy. They (seem) to be finding fault with each other and disagreeing about everything. For the first time, she (start) to wonder if she (be) ready for marriage. And with the wedding only twenty days away, she (need) to make up her mind soon.

Everything in Julie's life (go) well until her world fell apart just a month before. A large company (offer) David an important position that would require him to move to France. As his wife, Julie would have to go, too. Why hadn't he discussed his decision with her?

Although Julie (always want) to live abroad she felt very confused. Was she ready to move halfway across the world, leaving behind her friends and family and the only home she had ever known? If the answer was no, (she be) ready to say goodbye to the only man she (ever love)?

**Past Tense – Answer Key**

Exercise 1

1. Were , had never heard
2. Had kept
3. Was , had been turned down
4. Had never eaten , went
5. Was transplanted, had undergone
6. Had done, watched
7. Had already started, arrived

Exercise 2

1. Were going, fell
2. Had, saw
3. Got, felt
4. Shook, took
5. Was filling, ran
6. Were watching, went
7. Didn’t see, was facing

Exercise 3

Was, stood, picked up, had left, was, engraved, do you make, was sitting, had given, did you know, was doing, believe.

Exercise 4

Had been walking, was sinking, had lost, had been thinking, hadn’t been, had known, had become, seemed, was starting, was, needed, had been going, had offered, had always wanted, was she, had ever loved.