

PAST TENSES

1. Complete the dialogues with the correct Past Simple or Past Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

1

A: What's wrong with you?

B: I've broken my foot. I _____ (build¹) a wall in my garden and I _____ (drop²) a brick on it

A: Really. How's the brick?

2.

A: What _____ (you/do³) at six o'clock yesterday evening?

B: I _____ (watch⁴) TV. How about you?

A: I _____ (write⁵) some letters. I _____ (not/finish⁶) until after nine.

B: I _____ (watch⁷) TV until ten o'clock and then I _____ (go⁸) to bed.

3

A: This time last week I _____ (drive⁹) to Cambridge for my university entrance interview.

B: Oh, yes. How _____ (it/go¹⁰)?

A: Well, it was a bit frightening at first. I _____ (enter¹¹) a room and six people _____ (sit¹²) at the table and an empty chair _____ (stand¹³) and _____ (face¹⁴) them. They _____ (invite¹⁵) me to sit down and then they _____ (ask¹⁶) me a lot of questions about my entrance exam paper.

B: Wow! Sounds awful.

A: It wasn't too bad. Then they _____ (ask¹⁷) me to wait outside and while I _____ (wait¹⁸) another student _____ (come¹⁹) in and _____ (sit²⁰) down. I _____ (feel²¹) really sorry for him because he _____ (look²²) terrified and all the time _____ (twist²³) his tie round his fingers. I _____ (tell²⁴) him it wasn't the Spanish Inquisition and to relax which he seemed to do.

B: What _____ (happen²⁵) next?

A: Not much, really. They _____ (call²⁶) me back in and _____ (say²⁷) that I would have their decision in two weeks and now I'm just waiting.

4

A: I'm going to bed.

B: I _____ (think²⁸) you _____ (watch²⁹) the late film.

A: I _____ (want³⁰) to but I'm just too tired. I _____ (have³¹) a difficult day at work. I _____ (put³²) together my presentation to the directors from 9.00 until 5.00 and when I finally _____ (finish³³) I _____ (find³⁴) out that they _____ (not/meet³⁵) until next week and I could have done it later.

B: Never mind, I'll make us some hot chocolate and we'll have an early night.

2. Complete the sentences with the correct Past Simple, Past Perfect, or Past Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

1. My mother _____ (learn) to drive while she _____ (study) at university.
2. It _____ (rain) all the time that we _____ (drive) up to Paris.
3. Mary _____ (grow) up in Manchester, but when she was sixteen, we _____ (move) to London.
4. Nick finally _____ (get) his first job a year after he _____ (leave) university.
5. Mila Kunis _____ (emigrate) to the USA, and she _____ (start) a business while she _____ (live) there.
6. My father _____ (meet) his best friend last night. He _____ (not/see) him for over a year!

3. Complete the text with the correct Past Simple, Past Perfect, or Past Continuous form of the verbs.

Last night, Alice _____¹ to music when her mobile phone _____² ringing. It was her best friend. He _____³ his bag and _____⁴ enough money to get a taxi home. He _____⁵ to walk, but when it _____⁶ to rain, he _____⁷ to go to a café. He _____⁸ there and he wanted me to ask if I would drive over and pick him up!

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. a) listened | b) was listening | c) had listened |
| 2. a) started | b) had started | c) was starting |
| 3. a) was losing | b) lost | c) had lost |
| 4. a) didn't have | b) hadn't had | c) wasn't having |
| 5. a) was starting | b) started | c) had started |
| 6. a) began | b) had begun | c) was beginning |
| 7. a) decided | b) was deciding | c) had decided |
| 8. a) had waited | b) was waiting | c) waited |