

Grammar

A. Complete the paragraph. Use the simple past or the present perfect form of the verbs in parentheses.

All last year I _____ (struggle with) math and _____ (fall behind), but this semester I _____ (catch up). I _____ (not miss) a single class since the beginning of this semester and I _____ (hand in) all my assignments on time so far. I hope I _____ (pass) last week's test.

B. Complete the paragraph with the verbs in parentheses. Use one simple past and one past perfect verb form in each sentence.

I _____ (be) surprised to meet my old high school history teacher in the supermarket because I _____ (not see) her for over ten years. Although history _____ (be) my favorite subject in high school, I actually _____ (go) on the major in biology in college.

C. Complete the paragraph with the verbs in parentheses. Use one past perfect and one past perfect continuous verb in each sentence.

Once during college I dropped one of my classes. I _____ (work) part-time as a waiter in order to earn some extra money, and I _____ (not realized) just how tiring that would be. I thought that I _____ (pass) my mid-term exam because I _____ (study) hard all semester. But it turned out that I _____ (be) too tired to prepare for the exam properly because I _____ (do) the night shift at work.

Vocabulary

D. Complete the sentences. Choose from the phrases in the box.

catch up on	fall behind on	turn in	count toward	struggle with	drop a class
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1. I felt confident when I _____ my assignment. I think I'd get a good grade.
2. We are nervous 'cause this project _____ our final grade.
3. I haven't seen my friend in ages, we have a lot to _____.
4. Susan rather to _____ than to attend and never understand.
5. I don't like math classes, I have always _____ numbers.
6. If you _____, you can start by doing small tasks and then the bigger ones.

E. Complete the conversation. Choose the correct option

Melissa: I can't believe how unfriendly people are in this town!

James: Yeah, I know what you mean. In my neighborhood people rarely _____ me when I pass them on the Street.

Melissa: I hate that! And in stores, they don't _____.

James: That's true. I can't understand why many older people don't _____ out of their homes nowadays. They never see a friendly face.

Melissa: Yeah ... And when I was on the bus last week, and trying to _____ past all the other passengers to the exit, no one would move! In the end I had to _____ someone's shirt sleeve so they notice me and I could get past!

James: I think we should change things. How about, _____, we smile at everyone we see for the rest of the day?

Melissa: Ok ... It might get a little bit tiring, though

Listening

F. Listen to a woman talking to a man about what she did after leaving college. Check true or false for each sentence.

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| 1. The woman decided to be a volunteer right after college. | True | False |
| 2. The woman first heard about Clear the Oceans when she was in high school. | True | False |
| 3. The woman contacted the charity by email. | True | False |
| 4. The woman went on the boat to replace someone else. | True | False |
| 5. Both speakers think working on a boat is more interesting than office work. | True | False |

Useful Language

G. Complete the conversation. Choose the correct expression. There is one expression that you do not need to use.

Jimmy: This is a cool photo!

Lee: The one of the bird? My grandmother took it when I was little. She used to take me on long walks and spend a lot of time with me.

1. _____, she was probably my best friend until I started school!

Jimmy: Really? So 2. _____ you talk about her so much!

Lee: Yeah, she was really special, 3. _____, we were out together one day when I noticed this colorful little bird sitting on the sidewalk. We'd never seen one like that before, so she took a photo of it.

- a. but anyway
- b. getting back to my story
- c. looking back
- d. no wonder

Reading

H. Click on the button and read the article. Then read the statement and choose true, false or not given if the information is not given.

Young Hero: Louis Braille

You have probably heard of the Braille alphabet, but did you know it was invented by a 15-year-old-boy? Louis Braille was born in France in 1809. At the age of three, he had an accident that left him completely blind, but his parents wanted to raise him like other child (which was unusual for the blind at the time) and sent him at the local school. Louis was a clever and lively child and, even though he was only able to listen in class, he was soon one of the best students. When Louis was ten, he was encouraged to attend one of the first schools for blind children in the world located in Paris. The school's founder had developed a system of raised Roman letters to help his students read, but the system resulted in books that were very large and heavy and students couldn't use it to write. It was another man Charles Barbier, a captain in the French army, who gave Braille the idea for his famous alphabet. Barbier had invented a system of raised dots on the page so that his soldiers could communicate silently at night without a light. By the age of 15, Braille had adapted Barbier's system into an alphabet that allowed blind people not only to read, but to write as well. He eventually became a well-respected teacher but his alphabet only became widely used after his death.

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| 1. Louise was raised like most other blind children of the time. | True | False | Not given |
| 2. Braille's ideas were copied by the founder of the special school. | True | False | Not given |
| 3. There were many large and heavy books at the special school for the blind. | True | False | Not given |
| 4. Charles Barbier's system influenced Louis Braille. | True | False | Not given |
| 5. Barbier's system used raised Roman letters. | True | False | Not given |
| 6. Braille's alphabet allowed students to write as well as read. | True | False | Not given |

Writing

I. Write a narrative article about a time that you had problems with one of your teachers. What happened and what you did to solve it. Use narrative verbs. Write 70 to 90 words.