

Past tenses

1. Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 I (have) a shower when the postman (arrive).
- 2 Sandra (drop) her bag while she (run) for the bus.
- 3 He (read) the letter when he suddenly (start) to laugh.
- 4 The sun (shine), so we (decide) to have a barbecue.
- 5 She (hurt) her finger while she (cut) some bread.
- 6 Pat (live) in Greece when he (meet) Hannah.

2. Complete the sentences with the past simple or past perfect form of the verbs below.

arrive be complete decide finish get go lose

not know pass put start take tell

- 1 After we eating, we to go to the shops.
- 2 By the time they at the theatre, the play
- 3 He only realised he his keys when he to his front door.

- 4 Jerry delighted because he all his exams.
- 5 When everyone a chocolate, she the box away.
- 6 They out for a pizza after they the project.
- 7 I about the accident because no one me about it.

3. Choose the correct verbs to complete the sentences.

- 1 My father **worked / has worked** as a policeman since he **left / has left** school.
- 2 Linda **called / has called** me this morning. She **has decided / decided** to come out with us later.
- 3 Tom **never drove / has never driven** a car because he's not old enough.
- 4 I **bought / have bought** a new shirt at the weekend, but I **didn't wear / haven't worn** it yet.
- 5 Pablo loves Sam Smith's new album, but I **haven't heard / didn't hear** it.
- 6 I **spilled / have spilled** water on my phone earlier; I think I **broke / I've broken** it.

4. Complete the dialogue with the present perfect simple or continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

Eve Hi, Will. 1..... (you finish) reading that magazine yet?

Will Not quite. I 2..... (read) this article about Paris. It's really interesting.

Eve 3..... (you visit) France, then?

Will Lots of times – we **4**..... (go) there on holiday for years. Recently, my aunt and uncle **5**..... (buy) a house there so we'll go even more often.

Eve Lucky you. I **6**..... (never visit) another country. Anyway, I **7**..... (make) a cake if you'd like a piece?

Will That's really kind, but no thanks. I **8**..... (eat) biscuits all morning and I'm full!

5. Choose the correct verbs (a-c) to complete the text.

Last night, I **1**..... to music when my phone **2**..... ringing. It was my sister. She **3**..... her bag and **4**..... enough money to get a cab home. She **5**..... to walk, but when it **6**..... to rain, she **7**..... to go to a café. She **8**..... there and she wanted me to ask if Mum or Dad would drive over and pick her 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

6. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use the correct past tense.

1 'Why is your face so red?' 'I (sit) in the sun all morning.'

2 I (try) to do this crossword all morning and I still can't finish it.

3 They were driving to the sea when the car (run out) of petrol.

4 After they'd woken up, they (cook) a big breakfast.

5 Rosa has eaten octopus, but she (not try) snails before!

6 I (guess) what was inside the parcel before I opened it.