Grammar: past and present tenses

1 Complete the sentences below with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 It was the most beautiful sunset I _____ (ever / see).

2 I _____ (walk) for hours and my feet ached.

3 Jim _____ (listen) to the radio when I called him.

4 I _____ (never / be) abroad so I think I'll go to France next year.

5 Pete said he _____ (not / call) me yesterday because he was studying.

6 It _____ (take) eight minutes for the light from the sun to reach Earth.

7 'David _____ (go) into town. Do you want him to get anything?'

8 I _____ (sit) in front of this computer all day. It's time I took a break.

2 Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

1 The children *ate / have eaten / have been eating* the biscuits already. I only bought them an hour ago!

2 While I *walked / was walking / have been walking* into town, I saw an accident.

3 Peter *works / has worked / has been working* on the project for a week now.

4 I *broke / was breaking / have broken* my leg in a skiing accident last May.

5 Julian *chopped / was chopping / has been chopping* the vegetables while I made the sauce.

6 I *didn't read / haven't read / haven't been reading* the book yet because I'm so busy.

7 Lillian *has / is having / has been having* her piano lesson at the moment.

8 What *did you do / were you doing / have you been doing*? You're covered in mud.

3 Complete the sentences that follow in your own words.

1 Late last night I _____ when _____.

2 What _____ this time next week?

3 Have you _____ any time recently?

4 I had already _____ when _____.

5 I'm _____ if you'd like to come too.



4 Read the text and complete the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

I **(1)** _____ (not / forget) the first time our team played in a knock-out football tournament. No one **(2)** _____ (expect) us to get as far as we did – all the way to the final – as we were generally considered to be the outsiders, but knowing we might be up against the long standing champions, we **(3)** _____ (train) every day for months.

On the day of the match, I **(4)** _____ (wake) to see that the sun **(5)** _____ (shine). I **(6)** _____ (put) on my football kit and **(7)** _____ (wait) eagerly for Dad to announce it was time to go. When we **(8)** _____ (arrive) at the football pitch I joined my team mates who **(9)** _____ (already / do) warm ups and there was a definite sense of excitement and tension in the air. Our coach said, 'Remember, you **(10)** _____ (train) for the past year for this moment. Give it all you've got!'

We **(11)** _____ (march) out onto the field, and after shaking hands with each other, the referee **(12)** _____ (toss) his coin and **(13)** _____ (blow) his whistle. The next 90 minutes **(14)** _____ (pass) in a blur, but I could hear kids from our school who **(15)** _____ (cheer) us on. The other team **(16)** _____ (put) pressure on us the whole time and there were some close shaves, until finally in the second half they managed to score. It **(17)** _____ (begin) to look bad for us; with only five minutes left of the game we were one goal down. Suddenly I **(18)** _____ (see) my chance! Thanks to a straight pass from a team mate I **(19)** _____ (kick) the ball straight into the net. The whistle blew. It **(20)** _____ (be) a draw, but then we went to penalties and beat them: five goals to four!

LIVEWORKSHEETS