

## Verb Tenses Review

1. Complete the text with the verbs below. Use the present simple, present continuous, past simple or past continuous.

**contain - study - forget - die - happen - raise – succeed**

### A brother's story

While Dave Eggers \_\_\_\_\_ journalism at University in the early 1990s, his life changed in a sad and unexpected way: both of his parents \_\_\_\_\_ within a short time of each other. Suddenly, at the age of 21, instead of being a student, Eggers \_\_\_\_\_ Christopher, his eight-year-old brother. Being both brother and 'father' to Christopher was a huge challenge, but Dave \_\_\_\_\_. He later wrote about the experience in his first book, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*. Despite the serious topic, the book \_\_\_\_\_ many amusing descriptions of people and events. It is also a good reminder of something we often \_\_\_\_\_: No matter what \_\_\_\_\_ in your life right now, everything can change in an instant.

2. Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect simple past perfect simple and past simple

### The Lilly family reunion

How many relatives were at your last big family gathering? Probably far fewer than 2,585! That's how many people \_\_\_\_\_ (attend) the Lilly family reunion in West Virginia, USA, in 2009. The event \_\_\_\_\_ (set) a Guinness World Record for "largest family reunion". No other family \_\_\_\_\_ (break) this record yet.

The Lilly family \_\_\_\_\_ (hold) reunions since 1930. They took place annually through 1941. By that time, the reunion \_\_\_\_\_ (become) a popular event open to the public as well as the family. However, in the 40's, there were only a few reunions, and then none until 1976. That year, more than three decades after the family \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) at a reunion, the tradition began again. Fewer than 100 people attended that reunion, but by 2009, the number of participants \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) to over 2,500. Over the years, the family \_\_\_\_\_ (work) to make the Lily reunions special. Their example has also inspired of the families to have reunions.

3. Rewrite the sentences with the words in brackets. Use the present perfect simple, past perfect simple, or past simple. Make any changes necessary but do not change the meaning of the sentence.

1. My brother's in his third year of medical school (for)
2. Dave met his biological father for the first time last year (until)
3. My parents got married in 1995 and I was born in 1997 (after)
4. The last time I saw my uncle, I was 12 years old (since)
5. My sister fell asleep before the TV program ended (by the time)