Exercise 1. Past Simple

We use the Past Simple:

A. For an action which happened at a definite time in the past.

B. For actions which happened immediately one after the other in the past.

C. For past habits or states which are now finished. We can also use used to.

Complete the sentences using the Past Simple. Then write the correct rule letter (A–C) next to each sentence.

1. The travel agent _____ (cancel) our trip because of bad weather yesterday. Rule: ___

2. My grandparents _____ (travel) by tram every day when they were young. Rule: ___

3. The tourists _____ (arrive) at the campsite, _____ (choose) a place and _____ (put) their tent near the lake. Rule: ___

4. _____ you _____ (catch) the last coach yesterday evening? Rule: ___

5. We _____ (not / stay) in luxury hotels when we were children. Rule: ___

6. The passengers _____ (collect) their luggage and _____ (leave) the train station. Rule: ___

7. How much _____ the ferry tickets _____ (cost) last summer? Rule: ___

8. She _____ (apply) for a job as a travel agent two weeks ago. Rule: ___

9. People _____ (not / travel) by plane as often fifty years ago. Rule: ___

10. The driver _____ (stop) at the service station, _____ (buy) some water and _____ (continue) his journey. Rule: ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 2. Past Continuous

We use the Past Continuous:

A. For an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past.

B. For an action which was in progress when another action interrupted it.

C. For two or more simultaneous past actions.

D. To describe the atmosphere or setting at the beginning of a story.

Complete the sentences using the Past Continuous. Then write the correct rule letter (A–D) next to each sentence.

1. At 8 o'clock yesterday morning, hundreds of passengers _____ (wait) at the train station. Rule: ____

2. While we _____ (travel) by ferry, some tourists _____ (take) photos of the coastline. Rule: ____

3. The sun _____ (shine), the birds _____ (sing), and a group of tourists _____ (relax) near their tents. Rule: ____

4. What _____ the passengers _____ (do) when the delay was announced? Rule: ____

5. She _____ (not / pay) attention to the information screen when the platform number changed. Rule: ____

6. As the coach _____ (approach) the station, the driver noticed a problem. Rule: ____

7. While my parents _____ (plan) the journey, I _____ (compare) the fares. Rule: ____

8. At 6 p.m. yesterday, the travel agent _____ (discuss) our holiday arrangements with us. Rule: ____

9. The tourists _____ (not / sleep) when the storm started at the campsite. Rule: ____

10. The wind _____ (blow) strongly, the rain _____ (fall), and the passengers _____ (wait) nervously for the ferry. Rule: ____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 3. Past Perfect

We use the Past Perfect:

A. For an action that happened before another past action.

B. For an action that happened before a stated time in the past.

C. For an action which finished in the past and whose result was visible in the past.

Complete the sentences using the Past Perfect. Then write the correct rule letter (A–C) next to each sentence.

1. By the time we arrived at the coach station, the last coach _____ (already / leave). Rule: ___

2. The passengers were exhausted because their flight _____ (be) delayed for several hours. Rule: ___

3. She _____ (never / travel) first class before her business trip to London. Rule: ___

4. The tourists _____ (not / book) a campsite before they started their journey. Rule: ___

5. By 7 p.m., the travel agent _____ (cancel) all the reservations. Rule: ___

6. _____ you _____ (buy) your ferry tickets before you arrived at the port? Rule: ___

7. He was disappointed because he _____ (miss) the last train. Rule: ___

8. By the time the passengers reached the platform, the information screen _____ (already / show) the departure time. Rule: ___

9. The family was delighted because they _____ (find) a welcoming bed and breakfast near the beach. Rule: ___

10. Why _____ the travel agent _____ (change) the travel arrangements before the tourists arrived? Rule: ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS