

1

Our people

Grammar

Verb forms to talk about the past

- 1 Read part of a story about a woman returning home and then put the verbs in brackets into the correct past tense.

As Anne drove west, she (1) *felt* (feel) almost as though she were driving in a dream. But as she (2) (get) closer to home, there was an excitement she (3) (not experience) for years. She (4) (live) abroad for so long that she (5) (forget) what it was like to feel that you really belonged somewhere. Her family were there, in her village, and they (6) (wait) for her. As she (7) (come) over the hill, the view (8) (be) the same as it (9) (always / be). She noticed a young man who (10) (walk) purposefully towards the centre of the village. As the car drew near, he (11) (turn) and (12) (nod) as people do in this part of the world. She (13) (not realise) until then that it was Niall, a boy she (14) (babysit) many times when she was a teenager. So not everything (15) (stay) the same. Anne herself (16) (also / change) of course. The night before, she (17) (stay) in a hotel in Dublin and the receptionist (18) (ask) her '(19) (you / be) to Ireland before?' But what could she expect when her accent (20) (almost / disappear)?



- 2 Read each pair of sentences and then answer the question which follows.

1 A Katrina studied Portuguese when she arrived in Brazil.
B Katrina has been studying Portuguese since she arrived in Brazil.

In which sentence is Katrina still in Brazil? B

2 A My brother was always borrowing my things when we were teenagers.
B My brother always borrowed my things when we were teenagers.

In which sentence does the speaker seem slightly irritated?

3 A Has Richard rung this morning?
B Did Richard ring this morning?

In which sentence is it still morning?

4 A My school team won the regional championship five times.
B My school team has won the regional championship five times since 1997.

In which sentence does the speaker think the team might win the regional championship again?

5 A When Giulia got home, her friends made her a meal.
B When Giulia got home, her friends had made her a meal.

In which sentence was the meal ready when Giulia arrived?

Used to

- 3 Look at the past tense verbs in these sentences. Rewrite any sentence where the verb can be replaced by *used to*. Write 'No' for any sentence that cannot be changed.

Did parents use to be:

- 1 ~~Were parents~~ stricter with their children fifty years ago, do you think?
- 2 After I left school, I went abroad twice to work as an au pair.
- 3 People wrote letters by hand or on a typewriter until computers became widespread.
- 4 Is lunch still as important in your country as it was?
- 5 My father has worked in several different countries so I've been to lots of different schools.
- 6 I spent last summer helping my grandparents decorate their house.
- 7 Did you get as stressed at your last job as you do here?
- 8 I speak Russian quite well as I studied it for four years.
- 9 Japanese people didn't eat as much chicken in the past as they do now.
- 10 Wasn't there a factory on this site until a few years ago?