

Mixed tenses

1) Read the sentences and choose whether the underlined words refer to a, b or c.

- 1 My daughters' favourite animals at the zoo were the tigers. At lunchtime we watched the zoo staff feed them.
a daughters
b animals
c tigers
- 2 Thelma and James both work in sales and have been at the same company for a year. They say it's a great place to work.
a sales
b company
c year
- 3 When I told them I had lots of offers from the universities I visited last month, my parents were really proud of me.
a offers
b universities
c parents
- 4 To celebrate getting his new job, Julio first went to a restaurant for lunch with friends. Then he went to a show in the evening with his wife. They both really enjoyed it.
a job
b restaurant
c show
- 5 My sisters said goodbye to my grandparents and so did my parents, then we got in the car and I gave them a lift to the station.
a said goodbye
b got in the car
c gave them a lift

2) Choose the correct answer from the words in italics.

A few years ago I spent a holiday in Indonesia, and while I was there I ¹ *took / was taking* a boat trip to a remote island. I have always been interested in birds and ² *was being told / had been told* that there was some great bird-watching on the islands. As soon as we reached our destination, everyone ³ *went / had gone* in different directions to explore. I was so keen to do the same that I ⁴ *hadn't listened / wasn't listening* when the guide told us what time to return to the boat. I ⁵ *set off / had set off* towards a beach I could see in the distance, where I ⁶ *had hoped / hoped* to find some interesting birds. After spending some time looking at some fabulous wildlife through my binoculars, and after I ⁷ *had taken / was taking* several photographs, I suddenly ⁸ *had realized / realized* that I had no idea what the time was, or when we were meant to be back at the boat. I quickly gathered my things and ⁹ *raced / was racing* back when I saw the boat disappearing into the distance. Luckily, one of the other passengers ¹⁰ *was noticing / had noticed* that I was missing and the boat soon turned around to pick me up. Much as I loved the island, I didn't really want to spend the night there alone!

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3) Choose the correct option a–c to complete the sentences.

- 1 I love listening to music _____ I'm in the bath.
It's my favourite way of relaxing!
a by the time
b during
c while
- 2 _____ their new model of smart phone came out,
there were people queueing up to buy one.
a As soon as
b Until
c Meanwhile
- 3 In most countries around the world, people aren't able
to vote _____ they are eighteen years old.
a while
b until
c during
- 4 Last night, Johanna was busy working in the library.
_____, all her friends were out having a good
time.
a By the time
b During
c Meanwhile
- 5 _____ people reach the age of sixty-five, they
have usually worked for many years.
a As soon as
b While
c By the time

4) Choose the correct option a–c to complete the sentences.

- 1 I like most forms of entertainment but I often
_____ why people like films that scare them. It
seems so strange!
a wonder
b expect
c remember
- 2 His friends regularly _____ him of the day he lost
his keys and all his money. He would have preferred to
forget it had ever happened!
a believed
b realized
c reminded
- 3 They'd been there once but didn't think they'd
_____ the house again, especially in the dark.
a whisper
b recognize
c appear
- 4 It's a fascinating book, but very few people
_____ that all the events actually happened.
a will appear
b will believe
c will disappear
- 5 After the day had started so badly, nobody _____
that we'd all enjoy ourselves so much.
a expected
b forgot
c screamed