1. Choose past simple, past continuous or past perfect to complete the sentences below.

It was Sunday afternoon. I 1 [ ] a cookery program on TV when I 2 [ ] how hungry I was. But of course I was hungry; I 3 [ ] anything since lunch, and I 4 [ ] a race in the morning. “Biscuits!” I 5 [ ]. My mother 6 [ ] me a jar of delicious home-made biscuits.

I 7 [ ] into the kitchen, 8 [ ] the fridge and 9 [ ] some milk in a big glass. Then I 10 [ ] for the kitchen chair but it 11 [ ] there: somebody 12 [ ] it away. And there were no biscuits in the biscuit jar: somebody 13 [ ] them all! I was sure I 14 [ ] the jar there the previous day, and I 15 [ ] only one cookie. It was very strange.

A few minutes later, I 16 [ ] my glass of milk when I 17 [ ] a loud noise coming from the dining room. I 18 [ ] there quickly and I 19 [ ] the door. I couldn’t believe my eyes. An enormous monkey 20 [ ] the biscuits excitedly on the kitchen chair.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Choose the most suitable answer for each gap below.

1. I was very late. When I arrived, the conference _____.

a. was already starting
b. started
c. had already started

2. When he heard the police knocking on the door, he ____ under the bed.

a. hid
b. had hiden
c. was hiding

3. The police arrested him because he _____ a gun.

a. carried
b. was carrying
c. had carried

4. When they arrived at the police station, he said that he _____ anything wrong.

a. didn't do
b. wasn't doing
c. hadn't done

5. When he said that he loved me, I knew that he _____.

a. lied
b. was lying
c. had lied

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. Fill in the gaps with the most appropriate narrative tenses of the verbs in brackets: past simple, past continuous or past perfect simple.

This story is based on true events that 1 _____ (happen) many, many years ago in Scotland. One day, Mr Clark 2 _____ (walk) home with a smile on his face. He 3 _____ (carry) something very valuable in his hand: tickets for a long, long journey.

After many years working and saving, Mr Clark 4 _____ (save) all the money he needed to take all his family to the United States. Earlier that afternoon he 5 _____ (buy) all the tickets that now he 6 _____ (hold) in his hand. It was the opportunity of their lives. "The United States of America," he repeated aloud just to see how nice it 7 _____ (sound) in his ears.

A few days before their departure, Mr Clark's son 8 _____ (play) in the street when a dog 9 _____ (bite) him. The doctor 10 _____ (go) to their home and 11 _____ (treat) the child's wound. Then he 12 _____ (hang) a yellow sheet on their front door. That yellow sheet meant that they 13 _____ (just/be) quarantined. They 14 _____ (have) to stay at home for two weeks because of the possibility of rabies.

Five days later, Mr Clark was at the docks. He 15 _____ (leave) the house and now he 16 _____ (watch) their ship leave to the United States without him or his family. When the ship 17 _____ (disappear) in the horizon, he 18 _____ (stand up) and 19 _____ (go) back home, crying.

A few days later, the tragic news spread throughout Scotland - the mighty Titanic 20 _____ (sink), taking hundreds of lives with it.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4. Read the order in which the events happened and then choose between the past simple or past perfect forms to complete the sentences.

First, I wrote a letter. Second, I showed him the letter. ⇒ I showed him a letter that I [ ].

2 First, I wrote a letter. Second, I showed him the letter. ⇒ I wrote a letter and a few days later I [ ] it to him.

3 First, I looked through the window. Second, it started raining. ⇒ When I looked through the window, it [ ] raining.

4 First, it rained. Second, I looked through the window. ⇒ When I looked through the window, it [ ].

5 First I had dinner. Second, you called. ⇒ When you called, I [ ] dinner.

LIVEWORKSHEETS