

PAST TENSES

1 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *present perfect*. CHECK ...

- 1 A: *Have you seen* (you/see) any interesting films recently?
 B: Yes, last night I [] (watch) *Apollo 13* on DVD.
- 2 A: NASA [] (send) three manned missions into space this month.
 B: Really? I [] (not/know) that.
- 3 A: I [] (meet) Amelia's dad last week. He [] (be) a firefighter for over twenty years.
 B: Wow! I [] (always/want) to meet a firefighter.
- 4 A: Yesterday, a tsunami [] (hit) the Indian coast and [] (ruin) people's homes.
 B: I know. I [] (hear) about it on the radio this morning.
- 5 A: I [] (have) an incredible holiday in America last summer. We even [] (witness) a tornado.
 B: Amazing! I [] (never/see) a tornado.
- 6 A: They [] (not/put out) that fire at the factory yet. I hope there are no casualties.
 B: Well, so far they [] (rescue) ten out of the fifteen people trapped in the building.

2 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *present perfect*. CHECK ...

- 1 Catherine *injured* (injure) herself when she [] (trip) and [] (fall) over.
- 2 They [] (already/clear) the debris that [] (form) when the earthquake [] (strike).
- 3 The spacecraft [] (leave) to explore part of our solar system three years ago and it [] (not/return) to Earth yet.
- 4 Our area [] (have) three tornadoes in the last ten years. The last one was a few months ago and we still [] (not/rebuild) everything.
- 5 She [] (break) her arm two weeks ago and it [] (be) in a cast ever since.
- 6 I'm sure Darwin [] (get) the email I [] (send) him yesterday, but he [] (not/reply) yet.
- 7 In 2005, hurricane Katrina [] (damage) much of New Orleans.
- 8 The area [] (not/experience) a drought so severe since the beginning of the century.

3 Use the verbs below to complete the sentences, putting them into the *past simple* or the *present perfect*. CHECK ...

• suffer • volunteer • play • sting • cause • leave • arrive • clear • take • destroy

- 1 A bee *stung* Ethan on the arm yesterday.
- 2 Soon after the accident, an ambulance [] and [] John to the nearest hospital.
- 3 The tsunami that the earthquake [] was ten metres high and [] much of the seaside.
- 4 Nigel is a professional athlete so he [] from several injuries during his career.
- 5 Carol [] her gloves at home and now her hands are freezing.
- 6 Josh [] football twice a week when he was younger.
- 7 Now that they [] the debris, the area looks nice again.
- 8 Mr Perkins [] with the local emergency services for the last twelve years.

4 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *present perfect*. CHECK

OIL DISASTER

Seventeen people were injured last night as the SS San Antonio oil tanker 1) *crashed* (**crash**) onto a reef. The ship 2) (b) **(travel)** to and from Uruguay regularly for the last three years. However, just as it was sailing out of Montevideo harbour, it 3) (b) **(strike)** something just underneath the water, 4) (b) **(collapse)** onto its side and 5) (b) **(start)** to spill oil onto the shore. Clean-up crews 6) (b) **(not/arrive)** yet and we understand that the ship 7) (b) **(leak)** over a thousand barrels of oil already. Daniel Procter, a scientist who 8) (b) **(work)** in Uruguay for the last 10 years, 9) (b) **(tell)** the press yesterday that the oil could damage plants and animals in the area. He 10) (b) **(add)** that Uruguay 11) (b) **(not/see)** a spill this bad since 2002.

6 Choose the correct item.

- 1 When John and Michelle **went/were going** canoeing last week, their canoe **was capsizing/capsized** while they were still in it.
- 2 We **didn't stay/weren't staying** at the beach long. The sun **wasn't shining/didn't shine** and the temperature was dropping quickly.
- 3 The hurricane **was destroying/destroyed** many houses and **was leaving/left** hundreds of people homeless.
- 4 Peter **was driving/drove** to work when he **was hearing/heard** the news report about the earthquake in his home town.
- 5 Lucy **read/was reading** a book while Kate **made/was making** dinner in the kitchen.

7 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*. CHECK

- 1 It was a quiet night. The children *were playing* (**play**) quietly while Sue and Ian (b) **(watch)** TV.
- 2 Julie (b) **(call)** you at 6:00 but you (b) **(have)** your French lesson at that time, so I (b) **(not/want)** to bother you.
- 3 When Sam (b) **(see)** that it (b) **(pour)** with rain, he (b) **(decide)** to stay home.
- 4 While the plane (b) **(prepare)** to land, one of its engines (b) **(catch)** fire.

8 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*. CHECK ...

1 A: We *witnessed* (*witness*) some incredible storms in Tornado Alley.

B: Wow! [] (you/see) any tornadoes?

2 A: There were people who [] (work) in the office building when the fire [] (break out). I hope everyone is okay.

B: The rescuers [] (evacuate) the building within 15 minutes, so I'm sure everyone [] (make) it out safely.

3 A: [] (you/feel) the earthquake at around 11:00 last night?

B: No, I [] (sleep) at the time.

4 A: What have they just said about tomorrow's weather?

B: I don't know. I [] (not/listen) to the weather forecast.

5 A: What [] (you/laugh) about when I [] (come) in?

B: A joke I [] (hear) on the radio.

9 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*. CHECK ...

Hi Daniel,

How's everything? I'm OK now, but let me tell you what 1) *happened* (*happen*) last week!

It was early in the evening last Saturday, and we 2) [] (spend) a quiet night at home. Outside, it

[] (rain) heavily and a strong wind 4) [] (blow). But we were

warm and cosy, so we 5) [] (not/really/pay) much attention to the weather. Later that night, we

6) [] (all/sleep) soundly when our dog 7) [] (start) barking really

loudly and 8) [] (wake) us up. Steve 9) [] (get up) and

10) [] (rush) downstairs. There was water everywhere! It 11) [] (come) in from under the front door and it 12) [] (rise) fast. Steve

13) [] (call) the fire brigade immediately. They 14) [] (come) 10

minutes later and 15) [] (pump) all the water out.

What a terrifying experience! I hope nothing like this happens to us again! Anyway, have to go now.

Write back soon.

Terry

13 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past perfect*. CHECK ...

1 Before Apollo 13 *entered* the Earth's atmosphere, the astronauts *had already moved* (*already/move*) to the command module.

2 The fire [] (burn) much of the building by the time the firefighters [] (arrive).

3 It was really dark, and we [] (get) lost because Ian [] (forget) to bring a torch.

4 Jason [] (not/accept) their invitation to eat out with them because he [] (eat) earlier that evening.

- 5 Juliá (phone) her sister because it was getting late and she (not/hear) from her all day.
- 6 The weather (be) terribly hot for several weeks before it (finally/start) to cool down.

14 Put the verbs into the *past perfect* or the *past perfect continuous*. **CHECK**

- 1 Ezra was upset because he *had fallen* (fall) over and scratched his knee.
- 2 How long (you/wait) before road assistance arrived?
- 3 The authorities (evacuate) the seaside village long before the tsunami hit the coast.
- 4 Anna (sit) on the plane for an hour before it finally took off.
- 5 The amount of carbon dioxide in the lunar module (reach) a dangerous level by the time the astronauts landed on Earth.
- 6 Sue (lie) on the beach for over eight hours before she got a sunburn.
- 7 As it (not/snow) for years, everyone was surprised to wake up and see the whole town covered in snow.

15 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct *past form*. **CHECK**

- 1 A: Adam *looked* (look) so tired when I (see) him yesterday.
B: That's because he (work) on his project all night the night before and he (not/have) any sleep.
- 2 A: How (Jake/break) his leg?
B: He (not/break) his leg, he just (twist) his ankle while he (play) basketball.
- 3 A: Why (you/shout) at your brother when I (walk) in?
B: Because yesterday I (ask) him to buy some things but by the time he (decide) to go to the shop they (already/close).
- 4 A: I heard that you (get) lost on your way to the ski resort.
B: Well, we (drive) around in the fog for over an hour before we (realise) that we (go) in the wrong direction.

16 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct *past form*. **CHECK**

Dear Diary,

It's day five of our camping trip on the Australian Blue Mountains. Yesterday, we **1** *had* (have) a bit of an adventure during our hike.

We **2** (hike) for an hour before we **3** (realise) that somewhere along the way, we **4** (lose) our map. Not only were we well and truly lost, but the temperature **5** (drop) quite a bit and we **6** (all/freeze) from the cold. To add to our troubles, our mobile phones **7** (not/work) at the time as there was no reception on the mountain. That meant we couldn't call anyone for help. Luckily, as we **8** (go) down the mountain, we **9** (meet) another group of hikers and they **10** (show) us the way to the campsite. We'll definitely be

more careful next time!