# 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.

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**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) _____ **(travel)** to and from Uruguay regularly for the last three years. However, just as it was sailing out of Montevideo harbour, it 3) _____ **(strike)** something just underneath the water, 4) _____ **(collapse)** onto its side and 5) _____ **(start)** to spill oil onto the shore. Clean-up crews 6) _____ **(not/arrive)** yet and we understand that the ship 7) _____ **(leak)** over a thousand barrels of oil already. Daniel Procter, a scientist who 8) _____ **(work)** in Uruguay for the last 10 years, 9) _____ **(tell)** the press yesterday that the oil could damage plants and animals in the area. He 10) _____ **(add)** that Uruguay 11) _____ **(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 _____ **(watch)** TV.

2 Julie _____ **(call)** you at 6:00 but you _____ **(have)** your French lesson at that time, so I _____ **(not/want)** to bother you.

3 When Sam _____ **(see)** that it _____ **(pour)** with rain, he _____ **(decide)** to stay home.

4 While the plane _____ **(prepare)** to land, one of its engines _____ **(catch)** fire.

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**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.

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5 Julia _____ **(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!

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