Past tenses

1. Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verb in brackets.

1 I ..... (have) a shower when the postman ..... (arrive).

2 Sandra ..... (drop) her bag while she ..... (run) for the bus.

3 He ..... (read) the letter when he suddenly ..... (start) to laugh.

4 The sun ..... (shine), so we ..... (decide) to have a barbecue.

5 She ..... (hurt) her finger while she ..... (cut) some bread.

6 Pat ..... (live) in Greece when he ..... (meet) Hannah.

2. Complete the sentences with the past simple or past perfect form of the verbs below.

arrive ***be*** ***complete*** ***decide*** ***finish*** ***get*** ***go*** ***lose***

not know ***pass*** ***put*** ***start*** ***take*** ***tell***

1 After we ..... eating, we ..... to go to the shops.

2 By the time they ..... at the theatre, the play .....

3 He only realised he ..... his keys when he ..... to his front door.

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4 Jerry ..... delighted because he ..... all his exams.

5 When everyone ..... a chocolate, she ..... the box away.

6 They ..... out for a pizza after they ..... the project.

7 I ..... about the accident because no one ..... me about it.

3. Choose the correct verbs to complete the sentences.

1 My father **worked / has worked** as a policeman since he **left / has left** school.

2 Linda **called / has called** me this morning. She **has decided / decided** to come out with us later.

3 Tom **never drove / has never driven** a car because he's not old enough.

4 I **bought / have bought** a new shirt at the weekend, but I **didn't wear / haven't worn** it yet.

5 Pablo loves Sam Smith's new album, but I **haven't heard / didn't hear** it.

6 I **spilled / have spilled** water on my phone earlier; I think **I broke / I've broken** it.

4. Complete the dialogue with the present perfect simple or continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

Eve Hi, Will. **1**..... (you finish) reading that magazine yet?

Will Not quite. I **2**..... (read) this article about Paris. It's really interesting.

Eve **3**..... (you visit) France, then?

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Will Lots of times – we **4**..... (go) there on holiday for years. Recently, my aunt and uncle **5**..... (buy) a house there so we'll go even more often.

Eve Lucky you. I **6**..... (never visit) another country. Anyway, I **7**..... (make) a cake if you'd like a piece?

Will That's really kind, but no thanks. I **8**..... (eat) biscuits all morning and I'm full!

5. Choose the correct verbs (a-c) to complete the text.

Last night, I **1**..... to music when my phone **2**..... ringing. It was my sister. She **3**..... her bag and **4**..... enough money to get a cab home. She **5**..... to walk, but when it **6**..... to rain, she **7**..... to go to a café. She **8**..... there and she wanted me to ask if Mum or Dad would drive over and pick her up!

1 **a** listened **b** was listening **c** had listened

2 **a** started **b** had started **c** was starting

3 **a** was losing **b** lost **c** had lost

4 **a** didn't have **b** hadn't had **c** wasn't having

5 **a** was starting **b** started **c** had started

6 **a** began **b** had begun **c** was beginning

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7 **a** decided **b** was deciding **c** had decided

8 **a** had waited **b** was waiting **c** waited

6. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use the correct past tense.

1 'Why is your face so red?' 'I ..... (sit) in the sun all morning.'

2 I ..... (try) to do this crossword all morning and I still can't finish it.

3 They were driving to the sea when the car ..... (run out) of petrol.

4 After they'd woken up, they ..... (cook) a big breakfast.

5 Rosa has eaten octopus, but she ..... (not try) snails before!

6 I ..... (guess) what was inside the parcel before I opened it.

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