

Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect?

Complete the gaps with the correct past tense:

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.

Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous?

Put each verb in brackets into either the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous.

- Someone (eat)... *has eaten* ... all the cakes. I'll have to buy some more.
- What (you buy)..... your sister for her birthday?
- My throat is really sore. I (sing)..... all evening.
- Brenda (learn)..... Russian, but she finds it difficult.
- How many people (you invite)..... to your party?
- Those two cats (sit)..... on that branch for the last hour.
- It (rain)..... all day! Why can't it stop?
- Diana (wear)..... twelve different dresses in the past week!
- I (do)..... everything you asked. What should I do now?
- Graham and Pauline (try)..... to find a house for ages, but they can't find one they can afford.

Past Simple, Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous?

It was announced in London this morning that the British Oil Corporation (1) *...has discovered*.....(discover) oil under the sea near the Welsh coast. The company, which (2).....(drill) for oil in the area since 2001, (3).....(find) small amounts of oil near Swansea last month, and since then (4).....(discover) larger amounts under the seabed nearby. Last year the government (5).....(lend) over £50,000,000 to BOC, and (6).....(give) permission for the company to build an oil refinery and other facilities in South Wales.

The reaction of local people to today's news (7).....(be) mixed so far. Local MPs (8).....(already welcome) the news, pointing out that the oil industry will bring badly needed jobs to the area. But local residents are worried about the danger of pollution. 'Nobody (9).....(ask) us yet what we want,' said Ann Griffiths, leader of the Keep Out The Oil Campaign. 'Look what (10).....(happen) when they (11).....(find) oil in Scotland in the 1960s. The oil companies (12).....(get) rich, not the local people. BOC (13).....(not tell) us the truth about what this is going to mean for our people.' A BOC spokesman later (14).....(refuse) to comment. Meanwhile local campaigners (15).....(ask) the government to hold an inquiry.