

Exercises

3.1 Complete each sentence with a verb from the box. Use the present perfect or past simple, with a negative form where necessary. **A**

have go oversleep read spend wear

- 1 A: Shall I make us some dinner? It's already eight o'clock.
B: No, thanks. I to the dentist this afternoon and my mouth hurts too much to eat anything.
- 2 I three lectures today and I still have two more later this afternoon.
- 3 It was so hot today that I shorts and a T-shirt at work.
- 4 We £200 on food this month and there's another week to go before I get paid.
- 5 A: Do you want a lift home?
B: No, I this morning because my alarm clock didn't go off, so I need to work late.
- 6 I much of the report yet, but I have to finish it by the weekend.

3.2 Complete the sentences with the pairs of verbs from the box. Choose the most appropriate tense — present perfect or past simple. **B**

be able – feel happen – speak improve – be
not want – fall rescue – be work – not have

- 1 Maria to go swimming since she in the river.
- 2 Since she at the company she a day off through illness.
- 3 Since he the girl from a house fire, he on TV almost every day.
- 4 A lot since I last to you.
- 5 Since I to drive I much more independent
- 6 Stefan's reading enormously since he at school.

3.3 One sentence in each pair is wrong. Correct it by replacing the past simple with the present perfect of the italicised verb. **C**

- 1 a Remember that after you *signed* the contract you won't be able to change your mind.
b Carlo's injury only became apparent after he *signed* to play for Real Madrid.
- 2 a As soon as I *finished* college I want to travel around Australia.
b I didn't have time to check the essay. I handed it in as soon as I *finished* it.
- 3 a By the time Sarah *got* to work the meeting had finished.
b I'll probably have finished breakfast by the time the children *got* up.
- 4 a I recognised her the moment I *heard* her laugh.
b I'll tell you what time we're coming the moment I *heard* from Emil.

3.4 Here are some extracts from a television news report. Choose the more appropriate tense — present perfect or past simple — for the verbs in brackets. **D & E**

- 1 When President Nelson (*arrive*) in Paris this evening, it will be the first time she (*visit*) Europe since her election victory in May.
- 2 The Victoria Hospital in Milltown (*close*) to new patients after more cases of food poisoning. Three elderly patients (*die*) last week in the outbreak.
- 3 The rate of inflation (*drop*) to 4.8%. It's the first time in nearly two years that the rate (*fall*) below 5%.
- 4 Nearly 600 laptops (*steal*) from Ministry of Defence staff over the past five years. However, a spokesperson (*insist*) that there had been no security problems as none of the computers (*hold*) secret information.