First Certificate Language Practice

Past Simple VS Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Read the theory and solve the activities.

Activity nº1: Underline the most suitable verb form in each sentence.

a) *Did you see/Have you seen* my bag anywhere? I can't find it.

b) Larry *is writing/has been writing/has written* his novel for the last two years.

c) From the minute he got up this morning Gary *asked/has asked/has been asking* silly questions!

d) *Have you given/Did you give* Helen my message when you *have seen/saw* her?

e) Sorry, could you say that again? I *didn't listen/haven't listened/haven't been listening* to you.

f) The police think that they *found/have found* your wallet, so call this number.

g) *Did you two meet/Have you two met* before? Eric, this is Amanda.

h) *Did you meet/Have you met* anyone interesting at the reception?

Activity nº2: Put each verb in brackets into a suitable verb form.

a) I'm sorry about not coming last week. I *had* (have) a cold and so I (stay) at home.

b) Wait a minute! I _____ (have) an idea. Let's go and see Roger. We last _____ (see) him a long time ago.

c) It's nice to be back here in London. This is the second time I _____ (come) here.

d) I'm phoning about your bicycle for sale, which I _____ (see) in the local paper. _____ (you sell) it? Or is it still available?

e) This place is in a terrible mess! What on earth _____ (you do) ?

f) And now for an item of local news. Hampshire police _____ (find) the dangerous snake which _____ (go) missing earlier in the week.

g) This tooth _____ (kill) me lately! So I _____ (make) an appointment with the dentist for next Tuesday.

h) I can't give you the report I _____ (promise) for today because I _____ (not finish) it.

Activity nº3: Underline the most suitable time expression.

a) I haven't seen Gerry *for / since* a long time. How is he?

b) It's ages *ago / since* I last went to a football match.

c) I've written to Deborah *last week / recently.*

d) What have you been doing *today / yesterday?*

e) *H*ave you eaten Italian food *before / already?*

f) I've been living here *in / since* the end of last year.

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g) Actually I had dinner with Sue *last night / lately.*

h) I've been trying to get in touch with David *for ages / for the last time.*

i) Terry hasn't been to Edinburgh *since / when* we went there together.

j) I can't remember *how long / when* I've had this watch.

Activity nº4: Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between two and five words, including the word given.

a) Steve started learning the violin a month ago. Learning

Steve *has been learning* the violin for a month.

b) I haven't been to an Indian restaurant for ages. Since

It's ages _____ an Indian restaurant.

c) When she heard the results, Mary began to feel more confident. Become

Since hearing the results _____ more confident.

d) The last time Nancy came here was in 1986. Since

Nancy hasn't _____ 1986.

e) This is my first visit to Japan. Time

This is the first _____ to Japan.

f) How long have Helen and Robert been married? Get

When _____ married?

g) Jack bought those trousers last month, and has been wearing them ever since. For

Jack has _____ a month.

h) It's a long time since our last conversation. Spoken

We _____ long time.

i) Thanks, but I had something to eat earlier. Already

Thanks, but I've _____ eat.

j) This is my first game of water-polo. Played

I _____ before.

Activity nº5: Write the verbs in Past Simple, Present Perfect Simple or Continuou

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 2007, (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,'

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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.

Activity nº6: Write the verbs in Present Perfect Simple or Continuous.

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

Activity nº7: Choose the correct option.

Dear Andy and Sally

Just a quick e-mail to explain what we have done (1) .....C..... we were last in contact. The work on the kitchen has gone well so far, although we (2) ..... building the outside wall of the kitchen extension yet. If you remember, I e-mailed you last week and explained that my bricklayer was off sick. He (3) ..... his back playing football, and had to spend a couple of days in bed. Anyway, I'm glad to say that he has now recovered. He (4) ..... back to work yesterday, and he (5) ..... on the wall. It (6) ..... most of the time here, so it has been hard to do any outside work in any case. We have now finished most of the plumbing and the electrics inside, and we have also replaced the new kitchen window with a larger one, as we (7) ..... before you left. We (8) ..... fitting the kitchen yet. If you remember, you wanted to make some changes to the design, but I (9) ..... any detailed instructions from you yet. Did you get the e-mail I sent on 15th July? I tried phoning you on your mobile yesterday, and I left you a message, but we need to talk about this. I hope you (10) ..... a good time in Ireland.

Tony Galt

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1	*A* when	*B* before	*C* since	*D* after
2	*A* didn't finish	*B* haven't finished	*C* have finished	*D* finished
3	*A* hurt	*B* has been hurting	*C* was hurt	*D* has hurt
4	*A* has come	*B* came	*C* has been coming	*D* was coming
5	*A* has now worked	*B* has now been working	*C* is now working	*D* now works
6	*A* was raining	*B* has been raining	*C* rains	*D* rained
7	*A* have been discussing	*B* discussed	*C* have discussed	*D* discuss
8	*A* didn't start	*B* aren't starting	*C* don't start	*D* haven't started
9	*A* haven't received	*B* am not receiving	*C* don't receive	*D* didn't receive
10	*A* have	*B* had	*C* been having	*D* to have

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