WRITING PART 2 : STORIES

Grammar Past tenses

Preliminary candidates often make mistakes when using past tenses.

Circle the correct tense in each sentence.

1 He was *sitting / sat* in the café when he *had heard / heard* the explosion.
2 I quickly *looked / was looking* behind me and *was seeing / saw* a monster.
3 They couldn't go home until they *had finished / were finishing* preparing everything.
4 She *was going / went* out of the room and *was closing / closed* the door.
5 We *were getting / got* a terrible shock when we *were realising / realised* he was injured.
6 While I *was playing / had played* tennis, I *fell / was falling* and broke my ankle.
7 I knew I *had seen / saw* the man's face before.
8 She'*d been / was* in the room for two minutes when she *had smelt / smelt* the gas.
9 *Were you working / Had you worked* when the visitors arrived?
10 I'*d been / was going* to Berlin before so I *knew / had known* where to go.

Complete the text with the verb in brackets in the correct tense.

Tip! Use an appropriate comment to start and end your letter. You friend will be surprised if you don't!



As the train **(1)** ..... (leave) the station, Sandra looked out of the window at the grey sky and a tear **(2)** ..... (come) to her eye. She **(3)** ..... (spend) two wonderful months in the city and **(4)** ..... (be) so sad to leave. She **(5)** ..... (become) good friends with the family and **(6)** ..... (feel) sorry that she wouldn't see them again for a long time, especially Jan! She **(7)** ..... (take) out her book and **(8)** ..... (begin) to read, trying not to think about it. Suddenly, the train **(9)** ..... (stop) and she saw a person who **(10)** ..... (run) towards her carriage. She couldn't believe it. Jan **(11)** ..... (come) and he **(12)** ..... (carry) a huge bunch of red roses!

LIVEWORKSHEETS