74 Time

A Thinking about time



- **Time flies** when you get older.
- I get depressed **from time to time.**
- **It's about time** I started a pension.
- **At one time** I wanted to be a journalist.
- I **do** everything **at the last minute.**
- **In retrospect,** I wish I'd gone to university.
- **For the time being,** I'm happy where I am.
- I think **punctuality** is a great **virtue.**
- I live on a **day-to-day basis.**
- **With hindsight,** I should've worked harder.

GLOSSARY

time flies	time seems to pass very quickly	**for the time being**	for a short period of time, but not permanently
from time to time	sometimes but not regularly SYN **now and again**	**punctuality**	the fact of doing sth at the agreed or correct time and not being late **punctual** *adj*
it's about time (that)	used to say that sth should happen soon or should have happened already. Notice that the past tense is used. SYN **it's high time (that)**	**virtue**	a particular good quality or habit OPP **vice**
at one time	in the past, but not now	**day-to-day**	planning for only one day at a time: ***do sth on a day-to-day basis***
do sth at the last minute	do sth at the latest possible time before sth else happens SYN **leave sth to/till the last minute**	**with hindsight**	with the ability to understand a situation only after it has happened: ***with the benefit of hindsight***
in retrospect	thinking about the past now, often with a different view from the one you had then SYN **looking back**		

1 Find eight time phrases in the box.

leave sth	one time	flies	from time	with	in	day	time at
for the time	-to-day	hindsight	retrospect	being	to time	to the last minute	

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2 Rewrite the sentences starting with the words given. Keep the same meaning.

1 Looking back, I didn't enjoy it. In _____ .
2 He leaves things till the last minute. He does _____ .
3 It was an ambition in the past but not now. It was an ambition at _____ .
4 I go there now and again. I go there from _____ .
5 I don't think about the future. I live on a _____ .
6 I'm OK here at the moment. I'll be OK here for _____ .

3 Complete the sentences.

1 Looking _____ , I don't think I made the most of my time at university.
2 With the benefit of _____ , it was probably a mistake for me to leave my last job.
3 The trouble with Angel is that he _____ everything till the last _____ .
4 Listen, it's _____ time you started taking these exams seriously.
5 I'm always _____ , never late. For some people though, _____ doesn't matter.
6 The time has _____ since I've been in Greece. I've loved every minute of it.
7 For most people, patience is a great _____ . Unfortunately, I'm very impatient, but I have worse _____ than that!
8 This dictionary will be big enough _____ the time _____ .

4 ABOUT YOU **Read the statements at the top of the page again. Are any true for you? Do you agree with any of them? Write your answers, using the phrases in bold, or talk to another student.**

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TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B Memories

Some people have very **vivid** memories of their early childhood and can **recall** events in **extraordinary** detail. I have a few **unforgettable** memories. One of them is when I **slipped** and fell off a wall, and **landed** on a four-**inch** nail. It was still **stuck in** my foot when they took me to hospital. **Broadly speaking**, though, when I **look back on** that period of my life, I don't have many **lasting** or vivid memories; most are quite **vague**.

GLOSSARY	
vivid	(of memories, a description, etc.) very clear; producing a strong picture in your mind
recall *formal*	remember sth from the past **recollection** *n*
extraordinary	surprising, unusual and not what you expect SYN **incredible**
unforgettable	If sth is **unforgettable**, you cannot forget it, usually because it is beautiful, surprising or interesting.
slip (over/on sth)	slide a short distance by accident so that you fall or nearly fall
land	come down to the ground after falling or being thrown
inch	a measure of length, equal to approximately 2.5 cm
stick (in sth)	become fixed in one position and impossible to move
broadly speaking	used to show that what you are saying is true in general ALSO **generally speaking**, **on the whole**
look back (on sth)	think about sth in your past
lasting	continuing to exist or have an effect for a long time
vague	not clear in a person's mind: ***a vague memory/recollection***

5 **Underline the correct answer(s). Both answers may be possible.**

1 I only have a ***vague / vivid*** memory; it was a long time ago.
2 She's had an ***extraordinary / incredible*** life.
3 I don't ***remember / recall*** the occasion very well.
4 It was ages ago, but I still have a very ***vague / vivid*** memory of it, as if it was yesterday.
5 ***On the whole / Broadly speaking***, my recollections are quite vague.
6 He ***slipped / stuck*** on the ice and fell over.
7 I made a number of ***lasting / vivid*** friendships when I was at university.
8 Sam fell off the wall but managed to ***slip / land*** on his feet.

6 **Replace the underlined words with a word or phrase that keeps the same meaning.**

1 Broadly speaking, my memory isn't very good. .....
2 Climbing that mountain was an incredible experience. .....
3 I'm good at remembering events from my past. .....
4 She has a vague memory of the accident. .....
5 I don't remember hitting the ground after I fell. .....

7 **Complete the text with suitable words.**

I'm a keen climber and one of my most **(1)** ..... memories was when I attempted to climb part of Mount Snowdon in Wales. I was quite near the top when I **(2)** ..... on some loose rock. I must've fallen about five metres before I **(3)** ..... on a narrow piece of rock. It was only about 18 **(4)** ..... wide, so I could hardly move. Worse still, there was something **(5)** ..... in my back (I later discovered it was part of my equipment), and the pain was terrible. I was there for three hours before being rescued. **(6)** ..... on the incident, it was an **(7)** ..... piece of luck that I wasn't seriously injured. It's an **(8)** ..... memory, though not something that I **(9)** ..... with pleasure.

8 ABOUT YOU **Complete the three questions, then write your own answers, or talk to another student.**

1 What is your earliest ..... ? .....
2 What is your most ..... memory of childhood? .....
3 Generally ....., do you think you ..... events in your past clearly, or are your recollections quite ..... ? .....
4 Do you often look ..... on things from your past? Why / Why not? .....

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS