

1. Choose past simple, past continuous or past perfect to complete the sentences below.

It was Sunday afternoon. I ¹ _____ (watch) a cookery program on TV when I ² _____ (realise) how hungry I was. But, of course, I was hungry; I ³ _____ (eat) anything since lunch, and I ⁴ _____ (run) a race in the morning. "Biscuits!" I ⁵ _____ (think). My mother ⁶ _____ (give) me a jar of delicious home-made biscuits.

I ⁷ _____ (go) into the kitchen, ⁸ _____ (open) the fridge and ⁹ _____ (pour) some milk in a big glass. Then I ¹⁰ _____ (look) for the kitchen chair but it ¹¹ _____ (be) there: somebody ¹² _____ (take) it away. And there were no biscuits in the biscuit jar: somebody ¹³ _____ (eat) them all! I was sure I ¹⁴ _____ (put) the jar there the previous day, and I ¹⁵ _____ (eat) only one cookie. It was very strange.

A few minutes later, I ¹⁶ _____ (drink) my glass of milk when I ¹⁷ _____ (hear) a loud noise coming from the dining room. I ¹⁸ _____ (go) there quickly and I ¹⁹ _____ (open) the door. I couldn't believe my eyes. An enormous monkey ²⁰ _____ (eat) the biscuits excitedly on the kitchen chair.

2. Choose the most suitable answer for each gap below.

- 1) I was very late. When I arrived, the conference _____.
a. was already starting b. started c. had already started
- 2) When he heard the police knocking on the door, he _____ under the bed.
a. hid b. had hidden c. was hiding
- 3) The police arrested him because he _____ a gun.
a. carried b. was carrying c. had carried
- 4) When they arrived at the police station, he said that he _____ anything wrong.
a. didn't do b. wasn't doing c. hadn't done
- 5) When he said that he loved me, I knew that he _____.
a. lied b. was lying c. had lied
- 6) I looked at him and I knew he _____ in a fight, because he had a black eye.
a. was b. was being c. had been
- 7) He pulled out a gun and everybody _____ away.
a. ran b. was running c. had run
- 8) When I was a child, we _____ anywhere at weekends; it was boring.
a. never went b. were never going c. had never gone
- 9) When he retired he _____ in the company for more than 50 years.
a. was b. was being c. had been
- 10) I _____ to the road and we crashed.
a. didn't pay attention
b. wasn't paying attention
c. hadn't paid attention

3. Fill in the gaps with the most appropriate narrative tenses of the verbs in brackets: past simple, past continuous or past perfect simple.

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.

Exercise 3

Choose the correct answer.

1. Jacques Cousteau **B** the oceans.
A explores B explored C is exploring
2. Sam _____ a bicycle, but now he drives a car.
A is riding B used to ride C rides
3. I _____ an interesting book at the moment.
A don't read B read C am reading
5. He _____ home early yesterday because he felt ill.
A went B is going C used to go
6. Mr Jones _____, but he does now.
A used to travel B didn't use to travel C travelled
7. I _____ a noise, so I went to see what it was.
A heard B hear C am hearing
8. Peter _____ how to use a computer at present.
A learnt B is learning C learns
9. I _____ to a party last night
A used to go B went C was going

Exercise 4

Used To or Past Simple? Put the verbs into the correct form

1. Mother **cleaned** (clean) the windows twice last week.
2. They _____ (not/go) on holiday to Spain last year.
3. Mary _____ (not/sing) in the school choir yesterday.
4. Peter often _____ (fight) with his little brother when he was young.
5. Mother Teresa _____ (help) the poor people of India.
6. Her sister _____ (bake) this beautiful cake on Monday.
7. _____ Sam _____ (enjoy) his trip to Wales last weekend?
8. John _____ (fall) and _____ (hurt) his elbow.