PAST TENSES

Objective: Evaluate students' ability to use Simple Past, Past Continuous and Past Perfect appropriately in context.

Part 1: Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences using the verbs in parentheses in the correct past tense form (Simple Past, Past Continuous, or Past Perfect). Use affirmative, negative, or interrogative forms as appropriate.

Example: When I ***arrived*** (arrive) home, my brother ***had*** already ***finished*** (finish) his homework.

1. By the time we _____ (get) to the station, the train _____ (already / leave).
2. What_____you _____ (do) yesterday evening when I called you?
3. Emma _____ (not / hear) the announcement because she _____ (talk) to her friend too loudly.
4. We _____ (never / see) such a beautiful sunset before that day.
5. While the teacher _____ (explain) the rules, some students _____ (whisper) at the back of the classroom.
6. I _____ (try) to open the door, but someone _____ (lock) it from the inside.
7. _____ you ever _____ (be) to London before you moved there last year?
8. They _____ (plan) to spend the weekend at the beach, but it _____ (rain) all the time.
9. The movie _____ (already / start) when we finally _____ (find) our seats.
10. She _____ (not / understand) what had happened until she _____ (read) the letter.

Part 2: Complete the dialogue

Choose the correct verbs from the list and write them in the correct form (Simple Past, Past Continuous, or Past Perfect). Each verb can be used only once.

lose – find – rain – forget – wait – call – drive – fall – arrive – check

Tom: Hey Laura, where were you on Saturday? I_____you several times but you didn't answer.

Laura: Oh, sorry! I _____ my phone at home, so I couldn't answer your calls.

Tom: That explains it! I _____utside the café for almost an hour.

Laura: I know, I felt terrible. When I finally _____ there, it _____ heavily, and I was completely soaked.

Tom: Yeah, I saw that storm! I _____ my umbrella too.

Laura: It was such a mess. While I _____ to the café, my car suddenly _____ into a hole full of water.

Tom: That sounds awful!

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Laura: It really was. Later, I _____ the phone in my bag, but it was already broken.

Tom: At least you _____ your wallet this time, right?

Laura: (laughs) Luckily, yes!

Part 3: Complete the story

Complete the story using the verbs in parentheses in the correct past tense form (Simple Past, Past Continuous, or Past Perfect). Use affirmative, negative, or interrogative forms as needed.

It was a cold October evening when Sarah and her friends _____ (decide) to spend the night in an old cabin deep in the forest. They _____ (not / be) there before, but everyone in town _____ (hear) strange stories about it. As soon as they _____ (arrive), the sky _____ (turn) dark, and a strong wind _____ (start) blowing through the trees. While they _____ (prepare) dinner, one of them suddenly _____ (notice) that the door _____ (open) by itself. At first, they thought the wind _____ (cause) it, but then they realized it _____ (stop) blowing minutes before. "What was that?" Sarah whispered. Nobody _____ (want) to check. Later that night, while everyone _____ (try) to sleep, they heard footsteps outside. When Sarah _____ (look) through the window, she saw that someone _____ (leave) muddy footprints all around the cabin. But when the police _____ (arrive) the next morning, the footprints _____ (disappear) completely.

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