

PAST TENSES

1 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *present perfect*. CHECK ...

- 1 A: *Have you seen* (you/see) any interesting films recently?
B: Yes, last night I [] (watch) *Apollo 13* on DVD.
- 2 A: NASA [] (send) three manned missions into space this month.
B: Really? I [] (not/know) that.
- 3 A: I [] (meet) Amelia's dad last week. He [] (be) a firefighter for over twenty years.
B: Wow! I [] (always/want) to meet a firefighter.
- 4 A: Yesterday, a tsunami [] (hit) the Indian coast and [] (ruin) people's homes.
B: I know. I [] (hear) about it on the radio this morning.
- 5 A: I [] (have) an incredible holiday in America last summer. We even [] (witness) a tornado.
B: Amazing! I [] (never/see) a tornado.
- 6 A: They [] (not/put out) that fire at the factory yet. I hope there are no casualties.
B: Well, so far they [] (rescue) ten out of the fifteen people trapped in the building.

2 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *present perfect*. CHECK ...

- 1 Catherine *injured* (injure) herself when she [] (trip) and [] (fall) over.
- 2 They [] (already/clear) the debris that [] (form) when the earthquake [] (strike).
- 3 The spacecraft [] (leave) to explore part of our solar system three years ago and it [] (not/return) to Earth yet.
- 4 Our area [] (have) three tornadoes in the last ten years. The last one was a few months ago and we still [] (not/rebuild) everything.
- 5 She [] (break) her arm two weeks ago and it [] (be) in a cast ever since.
- 6 I'm sure Darwin [] (get) the email I [] (send) him yesterday, but he [] (not/reply) yet.
- 7 In 2005, hurricane Katrina [] (damage) much of New Orleans.
- 8 The area [] (not/experience) a drought so severe since the beginning of the century.

3 Use the verbs below to complete the sentences, putting them into the *past simple* or the *present perfect*. CHECK ...

• suffer • volunteer • play • sting • cause • leave • arrive • clear • take • destroy

- 1 A bee *stung* Ethan on the arm yesterday.
- 2 Soon after the accident, an ambulance [] and [] John to the nearest hospital.
- 3 The tsunami that the earthquake [] was ten metres high and [] much of the seaside.
- 4 Nigel is a professional athlete so he [] from several injuries during his career.
- 5 Carol [] her gloves at home and now her hands are freezing.
- 6 Josh [] football twice a week when he was younger.
- 7 Now that they [] the debris, the area looks nice again.
- 8 Mr Perkins [] with the local emergency services for the last twelve years.

- 4 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *present perfect*. CHECK

OIL DISASTER

Seventeen people were injured last night as the SS San Antonio oil tanker 1) *crashed* (*crash*) onto a reef. The ship 2) (*travel*) to and from Uruguay regularly for the last three years. However, just as it was sailing out of Montevideo harbour, it 3) (*strike*) something just underneath the water, 4) (*collapse*) onto its side and 5) (*start*) to spill oil onto the shore. Clean-up crews 6) (*not/arrive*) yet and we understand that the ship 7) (*leak*) over a thousand barrels of oil already. Daniel Procter, a scientist who 8) (*work*) in Uruguay for the last 10 years, 9) (*tell*) the press yesterday that the oil could damage plants and animals in the area. He 10) (*add*) that Uruguay 11) (*not/see*) a spill this bad since 2002.

- 6 Choose the correct item.

- 1 When John and Michelle **went/were going** canoeing last week, their canoe **was capsizing/capsized** while they were still in it.
- 2 We **didn't stay/weren't staying** at the beach long. The sun **wasn't shining/didn't shine** and the temperature was dropping quickly.
- 3 The hurricane **was destroying/destroyed** many houses and **was leaving/left** hundreds of people homeless.
- 4 Peter **was driving/drove** to work when he **was hearing/heard** the news report about the earthquake in his home town.
- 5 Lucy **read/was reading** a book while Kate **made/was making** dinner in the kitchen.

- 7 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*. CHECK

- 1 It was a quiet night. The children *were playing* (*play*) quietly while Sue and Ian (*watch*) TV.
- 2 Julie (*call*) you at 6:00 but you (*have*) your French lesson at that time, so I (*not/want*) to bother you.
- 3 When Sam (*see*) that it (*pour*) with rain, he (*decide*) to stay home.
- 4 While the plane (*prepare*) to land, one of its engines (*catch*) fire.

8 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*. **CHECK** ...

- 1 A: We *witnessed* (**witness**) some incredible storms in Tornado Alley.
 B: Wow! [] ... (**you/see**) any tornadoes?
- 2 A: There were people who [] ... (**work**) in the office building when the fire [] ... (**break out**). I hope everyone is okay.
 B: The rescuers [] ... (**evacuate**) the building within 15 minutes, so I'm sure everyone [] ... (**make**) it out safely.
- 3 A: [] ... (**you/feel**) the earthquake at around 11:00 last night?
 B: No, I [] ... (**sleep**) at the time.
- 4 A: What have they just said about tomorrow's weather?
 B: I don't know. I [] ... (**not/listen**) to the weather forecast.
- 5 A: What [] ... (**you/laugh**) about when I [] ... (**come**) in?
 B: A joke I [] ... (**hear**) on the radio.

9 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*. **CHECK** ...

Hi Daniel,

How's everything? I'm OK now, but let me tell you what 1) *happened* (**happen**) last week!

It was early in the evening last Saturday, and we 2) [] ... (**spend**) a quiet night at home. Outside, it [] ... (**rain**) heavily and a strong wind 4) [] ... (**blow**). But we were warm and cosy, so we 5) [] ... (**not/really/pay**) much attention to the weather. Later that night, we 6) [] ... (**all/sleep**) soundly when our dog 7) [] ... (**start**) barking really loudly and 8) [] ... (**wake**) us up. Steve 9) [] ... (**get up**) and 10) [] ... (**rush**) downstairs. There was water everywhere! It 11) [] ... (**come**) in from under the front door and it 12) [] ... (**rise**) fast. Steve 13) [] ... (**call**) the fire brigade immediately. They 14) [] ... (**come**) 10 minutes later and 15) [] ... (**pump**) all the water out.

What a terrifying experience! I hope nothing like this happens to us again! Anyway, have to go now.

Write back soon.

Terry

13 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past perfect*. **CHECK** ...

- 1 Before Apollo 13 *entered* the Earth's atmosphere, the astronauts *had already moved* (**already/move**) to the command module.
- 2 The fire [] ... (**burn**) much of the building by the time the firefighters [] ... (**arrive**).
- 3 It was really dark, and we [] ... (**get**) lost because Ian [] ... (**forget**) to bring a torch.
- 4 Jason [] ... (**not/accept**) their invitation to eat out with them because he [] ... (**eat**) earlier that evening.

- 5 Julia (phone) her sister because it was getting late and she (not/hear) from her all day.
- 6 The weather (be) terribly hot for several weeks before it (finally/start) to cool down.

14 Put the verbs into the *past perfect* or the *past perfect continuous*. **CHECK**

- Ezra was upset because he *had fallen* (fall) over and scratched his knee.
- How long (you/wait) before road assistance arrived?
- The authorities (evacuate) the seaside village long before the tsunami hit the coast.
- Anna (sit) on the plane for an hour before it finally took off.
- The amount of carbon dioxide in the lunar module (reach) a dangerous level by the time the astronauts landed on Earth.
- Sue (lie) on the beach for over eight hours before she got a sunburn.
- As it (not/snow) for years, everyone was surprised to wake up and see the whole town covered in snow.

15 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct *past form*. **CHECK**

- A: Adam *looked* (look) so tired when I (see) him yesterday.
B: That's because he (work) on his project all night the night before and he (not/have) any sleep.
- A: How (Jake/break) his leg?
B: He (not/break) his leg, he just (twist) his ankle while he (play) basketball.
- A: Why (you/shout) at your brother when I (walk) in?
B: Because yesterday I (ask) him to buy some things but by the time he (decide) to go to the shop they (already/close).
- A: I heard that you (get) lost on your way to the ski resort.
B: Well, we (drive) around in the fog for over an hour before we (realise) that we (go) in the wrong direction.

16 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct *past form*. **CHECK**

Dear Diary,

It's day five of our camping trip on the Australian Blue Mountains. Yesterday, we 1) *had* (have) a bit of an adventure during our hike.

We 2) (hike) for an hour before we 3) (realise) that somewhere along the way, we 4) (lose) our map. Not only were we well and truly lost, but the temperature 5) (drop) quite a bit and we 6) (all/freeze) from the cold. To add to our troubles, our mobile phones 7) (not/work) at the time as there was no reception on the mountain. That meant we couldn't call anyone for help. Luckily, as we 8) (go) down the mountain, we 9) (meet) another group of hikers and they 10) (show) us the way to the campsite. We'll definitely be more careful next time!