

GRAMMAR CONSOLIDATION

Past time

A. Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence

1. When you passed the town hall clock, *did you notice* / *were you noticing* what time it was?
2. Last night my neighbours *were shouting* / *would shout* for hours and I couldn't get to sleep.
3. When you lived in London, *did you use to travel* / *were you travelling* by bus?
4. Everyone was having a good time, although not many people *danced* / *were dancing*.
5. Jill was really hungry because she *didn't eat* / *hadn't eaten* all day.
6. Before we went to the theatre, we *called in* / *had called in* at George's cafe for a pizza.
7. It took a while for me to notice, but then I did. Everyone *stared* / *was staring* at me. What had I done wrong?
8. Nobody bothered to tell me that the school *decided* / *had decided* to have a special holiday on Friday.
9. I was *trying* / *tried* to get in touch with you all day yesterday. Where were you?
10. A: Excuse me, but this seat is mine.
B: I'm sorry, I didn't *realise* / *hadn't realised* that you were sitting here.

B. Put each verb in brackets into a suitable past verb form.

This time last year I (11) _____ (cycle) in the rain along a country road in France with a friend of mine. We (12) _____ (decide) to go on a cycling holiday in Normandy. Neither of us (13) _____ (be) to France before, but we (14) _____ (know) some French from our time at school and we (15) _____ (manage) to brush up on the basics. Now we (16) _____ (wonder) if we (17) _____ (make) the right decision. We (18) _____ (plan) our route carefully in advance, but we (19) _____ (forget) one important thing, the weather. It (20) _____ (rain) solidly since our arrival and that night we (21) _____ (end up) sleeping in the waiting room at a railway station. Then the next morning as we (22) _____ (ride) down a steep hill my bike (23) _____ (skid) on

the wet road and I (24) _____ (fall off). I (25) _____ (realise) immediately that I (26) _____ (break) my arm, and after a visit to the local hospital I (27) _____ (catch) the next train to Calais for the ferry home. Unfortunately my parents (28) _____ (not/expect) me home for a fortnight, and (29) _____ (go) away on holiday. So I (30) _____ (spend) a miserable couple of weeks alone, reading 'Teach Yourself French'.

C. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

31. I intended to call you yesterday, but I forgot.

going

I _____ call you yesterday, but I forgot.

32. Sylvia asked if I wanted more pudding, but I said I couldn't eat any more.

had

When Sylvia offered _____ enough.

33. Owing to illness, Sally was unable to sing the solo, as arranged.

have

Sally was _____ but she fell ill.

34. Diana wasn't always as rude as that.

be

Diana _____ rude.

35. We've changed our minds about going to Rome, as originally intended.

intending

We _____ we've changed our minds.

36. When I lived in London cycling to work was part of my daily routine.

used

When I lived in London I _____ day.

37. I might possibly go to the theatre tonight.

wondering

I _____ going to the theatre tonight.

38. I had to go past your house so I decided to drop in.

passing

I _____ so I decided to drop in.

39. About 100 people were waiting for the late bus.

arrived

By _____ about 100 people waiting.

40. What were you doing at the moment of the explosion?

occurred

When _____ what were you doing?

Present perfect

D. Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

41. I can't believe it, Inspector. You mean that Smith *stole / has stolen / has been stealing* money from the till all this time!

42. You three boys look very guilty! What *did you do / have you done / have you been doing* since I *left / have left* the room?

43. Why on earth *didn't you tell / haven't you told* me about that loose floorboard? I *tripped / have tripped* over it just now and hurt myself.

44. It's a long time since I *saw / have seen / have been seeing* your brother Paul. What did he *do / has he done / has he been doing* lately?

45. I can't believe that you *ate / have eaten / have been eating* three pizzas already! I only *brought / have only brought* them in fifteen minutes ago!

46. Don't forget that you *didn't see / haven't seen* Mrs Dawson. She has *waited / has been waiting* outside since 10.30.

47. What *did you think / have you thought* of Brighton? *Did you stay / Have you stayed* there long?

48. I feel really tired. I *weeded / have weeded / have been weeding* the garden for the last three hours and I *didn't rest / haven't rested* for a single moment.

49. I'm having problems with David. He *has called / has been calling* me up in the middle of the night and *told / telling* me his troubles.

50. How long *did you have / have you had / have you been having* driving lessons? And *did you take / have you taken / have you been taking* your test yet?

E. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

51. This has been my home for thirty years.

lived

I _____ for thirty years.

52. Eating Chinese food is new to me.

never

I _____ before.

53. Tony hasn't been to Paris before.

first

It's _____ to Paris.

54. We haven't been swimming for ages.

since

It's _____ swimming.

55. Mary started learning French five years ago.

has

Mary _____ five years.

56. I am on the tenth page of this letter I am writing.

ten

So far I _____ of this letter.

57. It's over twenty years since they got married.

for

They have _____ than twenty years.

58. The last time I saw Dick was in 1995.

seen

I haven't _____ 1995.

59. There is a definite improvement in your work.

has

Lately _____ improved.

60. This is my second visit to Hungary.

visited

This is the _____ Hungary.

F. Put each verb in brackets into either the past simple, present perfect simple or present perfect continuous.

I (61) _____ (move) to London three weeks ago to take up a new post at my company's London office. Ever since then, I (62) _____ (wonder) if I (63) _____ (make) the right decision.

I (64) _____ (see) a lot of negative things about living in the capital, and I can't say London (65) _____ (make) a very favourable impression on me. It's so polluted and expensive, and the people are so distant. You see, I (66) _____ (grow up) in a fairly small town called Devizes and I (67) _____ (spend) all of my life there.

I (68) _____ (always/want) to live in a big city and so when my company (69) _____ (offer) me a job in London, I (70) _____ (jump) at the chance.

I think I'm not alone in my aversion to the big city. According to a programme I
(71)_____ (just/hear) on the radio, more and more people (72)
_____. (stop) working in London recently, and a lot of large companies (73)
_____ (choose) to move away from the centre. Oh well, it's too late to
change my mind now, because the job is up and running, and I (74) _____
(already/sell) my house in Devizes. But I must admit, over the past few days, I (75)
_____ (secretly/hope) that the company would relocate me back to my old
town.