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Our people

Grammar

Verb forms to talk about the past

1 Read part of a story about a woman returning home and then put the verbs in brackets into the correct past tense.

As Anne drove west, she (1) *felt* *(feel)* almost as though she were driving in a dream. But as she (2) *(get)* closer to home, there was an excitement she (3) *(not experience)* for years. She (4) *(live)* abroad for so long that she (5) *(forget)* what it was like to feel that you really belonged somewhere. Her family were there, in her village, and they (6) *(wait)* for her. As she (7) *(come)* over the hill, the view (8) *(be)* the same as it (9) *(always / be)*. She noticed a young man who (10) *(walk)* purposefully towards the centre of the village. As the car drew near, he (11) *(turn)* and (12) *(nod)* as people do in this part of the world. She (13) *(not realise)* until then that it was Niall, a boy she (14) *(babysit)* many times when she was a teenager. So not everything (15) *(stay)* the same. Anne herself (16) *(also / change)* of course. The night before, she (17) *(stay)* in a hotel in Dublin and the receptionist (18) *(ask)* her ' (19) *(you / be)* to Ireland before?' But what could she expect when her accent (20) *(almost / disappear)*?



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2 Read each pair of sentences and then answer the question which follows.

1 A Katrina studied Portuguese when she arrived in Brazil.
B Katrina has been studying Portuguese since she arrived in Brazil.
In which sentence is Katrina still in Brazil? B

2 A My brother was always borrowing my things when we were teenagers.
B My brother always borrowed my things when we were teenagers.
In which sentence does the speaker seem slightly irritated?

3 A Has Richard rung this morning?
B Did Richard ring this morning?
In which sentence is it still morning?

4 A My school team won the regional championship five times.
B My school team has won the regional championship five times since 1997.
In which sentence does the speaker think the team might win the regional championship again?

5 A When Giulia got home, her friends made her a meal.
B When Giulia got home, her friends had made her a meal.
In which sentence was the meal ready when Giulia arrived?

Used to

3 Look at the past tense verbs in these sentences.

Rewrite any sentence where the verb can be replaced by *used to*. Write 'No' for any sentence that cannot be changed.

Did parents use to be
1 Were parents stricter with their children fifty years ago, do you think?
2 After I left school, I went abroad twice to work as an au pair.
3 People wrote letters by hand or on a typewriter until computers became widespread.
4 Is lunch still as important in your country as it was?
5 My father has worked in several different countries so I've been to lots of different schools.
6 I spent last summer helping my grandparents decorate their house.
7 Did you get as stressed at your last job as you do here?
8 I speak Russian quite well as I studied it for four years.
9 Japanese people didn't eat as much chicken in the past as they do now.
10 Wasn't there a factory on this site until a few years ago?