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Past Forms

6 A teacher is talking to a student. Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past continuous*.

- Teacher: James, why is your leg in a plaster cast? What 1) ... *happened* ... (happen)?
- James: Well, yesterday afternoon when I 2) (walk) home from school, I 3) (slip) over on the ice and 4) (break) my ankle.
- Teacher: How awful!
- James: It 5) (be). And I 6) (not/have) any credit on my mobile to call my parents.
- Teacher: So, how did you get to hospital?
- James: Well, I 7) (lie) on the ground wondering what to do when, all of a sudden, I 8) (see) my next door neighbour. He 9) (take) his dog for a walk.
- Teacher: That was lucky.
- James: I know. Anyway, he 10) (phone) my mum and she 11) (come) and 12) (take) me to hospital.
- Teacher: Well, I'm very glad someone 13) (find) you and I hope your leg mends soon.

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

A Night to Remember

It was a cold winter's night. The wind 1) ... *was blowing* ... (blow) and thick snow 2) (fall) to the ground. None of us could sleep, so we all 3) (stay) up late. While we 4) (sit) in the living room, listening to my brother, Jed, play the guitar, Mum 5) (come) out of the kitchen with hot chocolate for everyone. We 6) (have) a great time when, suddenly, all the lights 7) (go) out! Mum 8) (begin) looking for some candles. Ted 9) (try) to help us when my little sister, Emma, 10) (fall) off the couch. As I 11) (try) to reach her, I 12) (trip) over my brother's guitar. Luckily, Dad 13) (find) some matches and 14) (light) the fire. We could see again but we couldn't stop laughing!

8 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *past perfect*. State which action happened first.

- 1 When I ... *left* ... (leave) the house, I ... *realised* ... (realise) that I ... *had forgotten* ... (forget) to take my keys with me. **First action:** ... *had forgotten* ...
- 2 After I (finish) digging the garden, I (decide) to go for a walk. **First action:**
- 3 I (lend) Alisha some money only after she (promise) to give it back the next day. **First action:**
- 4 Kate (study) for her Maths test before she (go) out with her friends. **First action:**
- 5 I (buy) Beckie a plant yesterday because she (sing) so well in the concert the night before. **First action:**

9 Fill in the gaps using the *past perfect continuous* form of the verbs below.

look

drive

search

try

play

work



1 They .. *had been looking* .. for a house for ages before they finally found one they liked.



2 Jim and Emma were happy. They computer games all afternoon.



3 Chris finally found the perfect guitar after he all morning.



4 They for three hours before they stopped to look at the map.



5 Kevin was stressed. He to solve the Maths problem for over an hour.



6 Max had a headache because he on his computer for hours.

10 Put the verbs in brackets into the *past perfect* or the *past perfect continuous*.

1 A: Why didn't you have some dessert?
B: I ... *had eaten* ... (eat) too much already.

2 A: How long (you/live) in Brazil before you moved here?
B: About 10 years.

3 A: Did you watch the comedy on Channel 4 yesterday?
B: No. It (finish) by the time I got home.

4 A: Was she there when you arrived?
B: No, she (already/leave).

5 A: Why was Brad so exhausted last night?
B: He (work) since 9 o'clock in the morning.

6 A: What did he think of the photo exhibition?
B: He loved it. He said he (never/see) such beautiful photos before.

11 Make as many sentences as possible by combining the phrases in the columns and the appropriate time word.

- 1 She went to bed
- 2 Ted was making lunch
- 3 Jim was reading
- 4 Sally went to the bank
- 5 I was washing the dishes
- 6 He was very depressed

when
while
and
after
because

- a Nadia was laying the table.
- b she was drying them.
- c all her guests had left.
- d he had lost his job.
- e withdrew some money.
- f the doorbell rang.

- 1 ... *c. (after)* ...
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6



12 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct past form.

Holiday Trouble

I remember the first time I 1) *went* (go) abroad on holiday. I 2) (just/leave) school. I 3) (study) very hard for my final exams and I 4) (feel) that I needed to get away. A friend of mine 5) (want) to go away as well, so we 6) (decide) to look at some brochures at a travel agent's. We 7) (search) for about an hour when my friend 8) (find) the perfect holiday – two weeks in Cuba. We 9) (be) very excited about it. Finally, the day of our holiday 10) (arrive). We 11) (just/leave) the house when the phone 12) (ring). I 13) (run) back into the house but the phone 14) (stop) by the time I 15) (reach) it. When we 16) (get) to the airport, we 17) (check) in and 18) (go) to the cafeteria. While we were having our coffee, the airline 19) (make) an announcement. Our flight was delayed for eight hours. It was then that I 20) (realise) what the phone call was about.

13 Choose the correct answer.

- By 2008, Katie six countries in Europe.
A had already been visiting C already visited
B was already visiting **D had already visited**
- The children were cold. They in the snow all afternoon.
A had played B had been playing C were playing D played
- This time last week, I an exam.
A sat B had sat C had been sitting D was sitting
- Lucy was gardening Adam was painting the kitchen.
A when B as soon as C after D while
- Paul an expensive mountain bike last year.
A was buying B had bought C bought D had been buying
- He tennis every day during the summer holidays.
A is playing B had played C had been playing D played
- While Matthew was fixing the window, he off the ladder.
A fell B was falling C had fallen D had been falling
- It was a chilly evening. A strong wind and clouds were covering the sky.
A was blowing B blew C had blown D had been blowing
- They for three hours before they found the house.
A have walked B had been walking C walked D are walking
- By the time they arrived at the beach, it to rain.
A was starting B started C had started D had been starting