

Exercises

- 1 Complete the story with the simple past or past continuous form of the verbs in parentheses.
- One weekend last summer, I ¹ _____ (decide) to go for a walk in the mountains. It was a perfect day—the sun ² _____ (shine) and it wasn't too hot. But while I ³ _____ (walk), I suddenly ⁴ _____ (see) a huge bear on the path ahead of me. I was terrified! I ⁵ _____ (try) to decide what to do when the bear ⁶ _____ (turn) around and ⁷ _____ (run) away. I ⁸ _____ (not know) I was so scary!

- 2 Use the prompts to write questions with the tense in parentheses.

1 What / he / do / when / saw the lion? (past continuous)

2 What / he / do / when / the lion walked toward him? (simple past)

3 Who / you / speak to / when / your phone battery died? (past continuous)

4 What / you / do / when / your phone battery died? (simple past)

5 What / they / do / when / the storm started? (past continuous)

- 3 Match the questions from Exercise 2 with these answers.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

- a He ran away!
b They were swimming in the ocean.
c I was speaking to my boss.
d I borrowed my friend's phone.
e He was sitting on the grass.

- 4 Complete the sentences with the simple past or past continuous forms of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 The sun _____ (shine) when we _____ (go) outside.
2 While I _____ (run) around the park, I _____ (lose) my phone.
3 They _____ (watch) TV when she _____ (get) to their house.
4 Thomas _____ (sleep) when the mailman _____ (ring) the doorbell.

- 5 Read the sentences and underline the action in bold that happened first.

- 1 He **sat down** and watched TV.
2 They **went out** on the boat after the storm **had passed**.
3 Before we **had** our ice cream, we **went** for a swim.
4 He **didn't have** his phone because he'd **lost** it.
5 The movie **had ended** by the time we **arrived** at the theater.
6 They'd **met** each other many times before they **started** their business.
7 Sophie **felt** very excited because she **hadn't been** to a ballet before.
8 By the time we **found** the store, it **had closed**.

- 6 Complete the text with the past perfect form of these verbs. Use contractions where possible.

be	be	change	find
go	lose	spend	

Dario and Federica ¹ _____ only _____ married for three days when Federica lost her wedding ring. It happened on the first day of their honeymoon. They ² _____ the whole day on the beach and then they ³ _____ back to the hotel. While Federica was getting ready for dinner, she realized that she ⁴ _____ her ring. She felt terrible because it ⁵ _____ very expensive. The young couple went back to the beach the next day, but they couldn't find the ring. Then Federica remembered something: the day before, she ⁶ _____ her clothes behind a big rock at the end of the beach. So she went back to the rock. Luckily, the ring was still there—she couldn't believe she ⁷ _____ it!

- 7 Complete the sentences with the simple past or past perfect form of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1 Tania _____ (not be) to Bangkok before, so she _____ (be) really excited.
2 He _____ (not be) hungry because he _____ (eat) a big breakfast.
3 My cousins _____ (not come) to my birthday party because I _____ (forget) to send them an invitation.
4 The game _____ (already start) when we _____ (get) there.
5 I _____ (not want) to go to the movie theater with my friends because I _____ (already see) the movie.
6 Paco _____ (not know) the time because his watch _____ (stop) working.
7 The restaurant _____ (be) very busy, but luckily we _____ (reserve) a table.