UNIT 3

Grammar

Past time

Past simple

Single completed actions	*Sony and Philips **invented** the CD in the early 1980s.*
Repeated or habitual actions in the past	*We **moved** house a lot when I was a kid.*
General truths about the past	*Early clocks **were** usually very unreliable.*
Permanent situations and states in the past	***Did** the ancient Egyptians **have** more advanced technology than other civilisations?*
The main events in a story	*Frank **turned on** the TV and **sat** on the sofa.*
The present (in conditional sentences) (see Unit 11 for more information)	*If we **didn't have** computers, what would the world be like?*
The present (after *wish, it's time, would rather*, etc) (see Unit 13 for more information)	*I'd rather Michael **didn't waste** so much time playing video games.*

Emphatic past simple

To emphasise contrast in the past	*Perhaps our grandparents didn't have e-mail, but they **did have** the telephone and telegrams.*
To emphasise strong feeling in the past	*I **did enjoy** our visit to the Science Museum last summer.*

Past simple vs present perfect simple

- In general, the past simple is used to refer to periods of time or moments which are finished. The present perfect is used to refer to periods of time which continue up to the present.
  - ✓ *The nineteenth century **saw** many technological advances, such as the camera and the electric light bulb.*
  - ✓ *There **have been** many technological advances in recent years, the most important being the spread of the Internet.*
- The past simple is used to refer to events at a specific time in the past. The present perfect is used when the specific time something happened isn't important or relevant, or when the present result of a past event is important.
  - ✓ *I **sent** my first e-mail six months ago.*
  - ✓ ***Have** you ever **sent** an e-mail before?*

Past continuous

Actions in progress at a particular moment in the past	***Were** you **chatting** to Matt online at midnight last night?*
Actions in progress around a particular moment in the past	*At the turn of the twentieth century, many discoveries **were being made** in physics and other sciences.*
Temporary situations and series of actions in the past	*At the time, I **was working** for a large software company in California.*
Changing and developing situations in the past	*I **was getting** frustrated with my internet provider so I decided to change.*
Annoying or amusing past habits (usually with *always*)	*When she was young, Tina **was always taking** things **apart** to see how they worked.*
Background information in a story	*It **was raining** outside and people **were making** their way home after work.*
Actions in progress over a period of time	***Were** you **writing** e-mails all yesterday morning?*
Two actions in progress at the same time	*While I **was playing** a computer game, my brother **was doing** his homework.*
The present and the future (in conditional sentences) (see Unit 11 for more information)	*Would you be happier if you **were studying** computer science?*
The present and the future (after *wish, it's time, would rather*, etc) (see Unit 13 for more information)	*I wish we **were going** to the computer fair next weekend.*

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Past continuous vs past simple

- We often use the past continuous to describe background events in progress and the past simple for the main events.
  ✓ *We **were talking** about MP3s when Andrea **mentioned** her new music website.*
- We normally use the past simple to describe regular or repeated actions in the past, not the past continuous.
  ✓ *When I was a child, I **visited** my grandmother every week.*

Past continuous vs present perfect continuous

In general, the past continuous is used to refer to actions in progress during periods of time or at moments which are finished. The present perfect continuous is used to refer to actions in progress during periods of time which continue up to the present.

✓ *We **were working** on my computer for four hours yesterday.*
✓ *We **have been working** on my computer for four hours so far.*

Past perfect simple

Situations and states before the past	***Had** you **had** your computer long before it broke down?*
Completed actions before a moment in the past	*When talking films appeared, the cinema **had** already **become** a popular form of entertainment.*
	*When Dimitra called, I **had managed** to fix her computer.*
A series of actions continuing up to a moment in the past	*By the time of his death, Thomas Edison **had invented** a number of things that changed everyday life.*
Completed actions where the important thing is the result at a moment in the past	*I beat Jason at* International Captain *because **I'd played** it a lot with my brother.*

Past perfect continuous

Actions and situations continuing up to a moment in the past (or just before a moment in the past)	*She**'d been writing** computer games for over ten years before she finally had a hit.*

would

Past habits, particularly for the distant past	*The ancient Greeks **would** rely on the power of slaves, rather than machines.*

Watch out!

- *Would* can also be used with a continuous infinitive when we are referring to a habit involving actions in progress.
  ✓ *Whenever I went to James's house, he would usually **be playing** on his computer.*
- *Would* is not usually used to refer to past states.

used to

Past habits and states, particularly for the distant past	*It **used to** seem strange to be able to communicate over long distances.*

Watch out!

- Remember that *used to* is not the same as *be used to*. *Be used to* refers to a situation that is now familiar or no longer strange.
  ✓ *At first, people found it strange sending messages by mobile, but now everyone**'s used to** it.*
- We use *get used to* to refer to the process of becoming familiar with a situation.
  ✓ *It's surprising how quickly people in the nineteenth century **got used to** travelling by train.*

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A **Circle the correct word or phrase.**

1 Rick should know about the meeting because I **told / have told** him about it yesterday.
2 **Did you meet / Have you met** last July while you were both backpacking around Europe?
3 I'm resigning because the pressure at work **has become / became** too much for me.
4 A month ago, I **got / have got** a letter from Neil, but I haven't replied.
5 Julie **was / has been** anxious to speak to you since she heard about your accident.
6 I **had / have had** no idea you were such a good chess player.
7 If you **finished / have finished**, put your hand up and I'll collect your exam paper.
8 There **were / have been** a number of different reasons for our divorce.
9 It was my birthday last week and my grandad **gave / has given** me a new laptop.
10 I don't know who's responsible because I **didn't work / haven't worked** here long.
11 My brother and I **were never allowed / have never been allowed** to chew gum when we were young.
12 My parents **sent / have sent** me to a private school until I was 12.

B **Write the verb in brackets in the correct form, past simple or past continuous, in each gap. You may have to use the passive form.**

1 When the explosion happened, hundreds of people ..... (**pass**) through the airport.
2 When I heard the phone ring, I ..... (**stop**) writing to answer it.
3 Amy ..... (**read**), so she didn't see me walking past.
4 I ..... (**have**) piano lessons every week from the age of six onwards.
5 We decided to leave the beach because it ..... (**get**) dark and we wanted to get home while there was still some light.
6 ..... Jessica already ..... (**think**) of leaving university before she failed her first year exams?
7 Since the hotel had a pool, ... you ..... (**swim**) every day?
8 The Industrial Revolution ..... (**attract**) many people from the country to the city.
9 The Hubble Space Telescope ..... (**put**) into orbit around the Earth in 1990.
10 Sorry I couldn't come on Friday, but I ..... (**work**) on my project.
11 By the time we ..... (**arrive**), the party was almost over.
12 The national park ..... (**create**) to protect local wildlife.

C **Write a verb from the box in the correct form in each gap.**

appear • check • complete • disappear • get • go • kidnap • look • make • mean • open press • race • rain • remind • see • start • take • travel • wait • wear • work

High-tech trouble

It all (**1**) ..... as I made my way home from work. We (**2**) ..... on a top secret computer program, and everyone (**3**) ..... pretty nervous about finishing on time, so it was good to get away from the office. It (**4**) ..... and it seemed like everyone (**5**) ..... home at the same time, anxious to avoid getting wet. I (**6**) ..... down into the underground station and (**7**) ..... for the train when I (**8**) ..... her at the end of the platform. She (**9**) ..... a red leather jacket that (**10**) ..... me of something I'd seen in a film, although I couldn't remember when. As I watched, she (**11**) ..... her handbag and (**12**) ..... out what looked like a hand-held computer. She (**13**) ..... something on the screen, then (**14**) ..... in my direction. Suddenly, my mobile phone (**15**) ..... a sound that (**16**) ..... I had

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a text message. Frowning, I (**17**) ..... a key and the message (**18**) ..... .
'We (**19**) ..... your daughter. We know you (**20**) ..... the program. Follow the woman in red.' I looked up just as she (**21**) ..... around the corner. I (**22**) .....
after her.

D **One verb in each sentence is in the wrong tense. Underline the incorrect word or phrase and write it in the correct tense.**

1 I've been having a lot of problems with my computer recently and so I got a technician to come and have a look at it, but she has told me that it was because I wasn't using it properly.
2 It was a few days since I heard from Roger, but he left Russia last Monday and he was planning to arrive in China yesterday, so I called his mum to see if she had heard anything.
3 Patricia and I were having a really good discussion when Jason suddenly appeared and decided that he wanted to join in, even though he has known absolutely nothing about what we were talking about.
4 I had never been visiting a working prison before, so when the opportunity came up I was really eager to have a look around and I certainly wasn't disappointed, although we weren't actually allowed to see the area where the prisoners live.
5 Charlie didn't know what Callum had said to Imogen, but he could see immediately that she had been crying and he was putting his arm around her to comfort her, which made her feel a little better.
6 Although there was no reason to doubt what Alex said, I was ringing Rick to check and he told me that Alex had been right and the concert really had been cancelled because the lead singer had come down with flu.
7 The year before, I had given Lisa a CD for her birthday, but this particular year I wanted to surprise her, so I went into town and I was looking round the shops when suddenly I had seen an old-fashioned hat, and it was her size, so I immediately bought it.
8 Olivia was cycling to school, as she usually did on those days when her father was working and wasn't able to drive her, when she was passing an old woman, who was waiting for the lights to change so that she could cross the road.

E **Write the verb in brackets in the correct form, past continuous or present perfect continuous, in each gap.**

1 'Why are you out of breath?'
'Because I ..... for the last hour.' (**exercise**)
2 'Your light was on when I walked past last night.'
'Yes, I ..... online to my cousin in Australia.' (**chat**)
3 'You've really improved on the flute.'
'Well, I hope so because I ..... a lot lately.' (**practise**)
4 'You're not jealous of my other friends, are you?'
'No, but you ..... quite a lot of them recently.' (**see**)
5 'I didn't wake you up, did I?'
'No, I ..... .' (**sleep**)
6 'Did you quit your job in the end?'
'I ..... of doing so for a long time, but then I decided not to.' (**think**)
7 'Why is your street such a mess?'
'Oh, the council ..... up the roads, but they should finish this weekend.' (**dig**)

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F **Write one verb in each sentence in the past simple and the other verb in the past perfect.**

1 The ambulance ..... (**left**) by the time the reporters ..... (**get**) to the scene of the accident.
2 Before I ..... (**meet**) Dr Christian, I ..... (**see**) a number of different specialists.
3 It ..... (**be**) only the second time I ..... (**ever / be**) in a helicopter.
4 Up to the moment when Mr O'Donnell ..... (**say**) 'You're fired', I ..... (**have**) no idea why he wanted to see me.
5 When Tonya ..... (**finished**) eating, she ..... (**ask**) the waiter to bring the bill.
6 Luckily, I ..... (**just / reach**) the end of my essay when the teacher ..... (**tell**) us all to put our pens down.
7 We ..... (**do**) everything we had to do by five, so we ..... (**decide**) to go out for a coffee.
8 I ..... (**want**) Mrs Thomas's young son to touch my ornaments because I ..... (**just / clean**) them.
9 My mum ..... (**be**) annoyed with me because I ..... (**forget**) to get milk when I was at the shop.
10 I ..... (**get**) Janine a book for her birthday, but she ..... (**read**) it before.

G **If a word or phrase in bold is in the correct form, put a tick. If it is incorrect, write the correct form on the line.**

The mobile phone

People (**1**) **have been dreaming** of having a personal means of communication for a long time. In the late 1960s, the idea (**2**) **had seemed** so far in the future that it (**3**) **was included** in the science fiction series, *Star Trek*. Since the 1980s, however, mobiles (**4**) **became** a part of everyday life. Although they (**5**) **were** initially **seen** as a status symbol for successful business people, mobile use (**6**) **had spread** to include practically everyone in the developed world, old and young alike.
The impact on social life (**7**) **had been** enormous. We have got used to the idea of having constantly changing social plans, where a quick phone call is all it takes to rearrange things. Before this was possible, there were many occasions when friends who (**8**) **had arranged** to meet completely (**9**) **had missed** each other because of a slight misunderstanding. People would often have to make very careful arrangements to be sure of meeting up.
As mobiles (**10**) **have been becoming** more popular, so they (**11**) **have become** more powerful. The large, unreliable mobile phone of the 1980s (**12**) **has evolved** into the small, stylish camera phone of today.

1 ..... 4 ..... 7 ..... 10 .....
2 ..... 5 ..... 8 ..... 11 .....
3 ..... 6 ..... 9 ..... 12 .....

H **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. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.**

1 I started working at eight and I was still working at six in the evening, when you called. **been**
When you called, ... ten hours.
2 We often went to the seaside with our grandparents as children. **would**
Our grandparents ..... to the seaside as children.
3 It's about seven years now since Laura started to learn Russian. **learning**
Laura ..... seven years.
4 Being with the older children soon stopped being frightening when I went to secondary school. **used**
Secondary school was frightening, but I ..... with the older children.
5 Every night for the past week I have had the same dream. **having**
I ..... for a week now.
6 I always disliked karate lessons but now I'm starting to enjoy them. **used**
I ..... karate lessons, but now I'm starting to.

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I Write one word in each gap.

The pencil

Because the pencil (**1**) ..... become such a fundamental part of our lives, it's difficult to remember that people (**2**) ..... not been using them forever. Like other products of human ingenuity, pencils had to be invented.

Before the first half of the sixteenth century, people (**3**) ..... to use pens to write with and brushes to paint with. It (**4**) ..... also possible to use a metal stick to make faint marks on paper. However, up to that point no one (**5**) ..... found an easy way to make marks that could be erased. Then, some time before 1565, a large deposit of the chemical, graphite, (**6**) ..... found near Borrowdale in Cumbria, England. The locals (**7**) ..... use this graphite (a kind of soft black rock) to mark sheep. Soon, tales of this unusual soft substance (**8**) ..... spread to artists around the world, who were eager to use it to produce works of art.

Graphite is soft and dirty, and in order to write or draw with it, it (**9**) ..... to have to be covered in something, such as sheepskin or string. People had (**10**) ..... trying to improve the pencil for some time before manufacturers in Italy came up with the idea of enclosing the graphite in a wooden case. The modern pencil was born.

J Choose the correct answer.

1 How long ..... before Val finally turned up?
A have you been waiting C you waited
B are you waiting D had you been waiting

2 You ..... be so good at backgammon, did you?
A never used to C are used to
B got used to D wouldn't

3 Could you tell me, sir, what you ..... in the park at three in the morning?
A have done C were doing
B have been doing D had done

4 I was angry when you saw me because I ..... with my sister.
A have been arguing C had been arguing
B argued D would argue

5 *The Black Pirate* ..... over a million copies already this year.
A had sold C had been selling
B has sold D was selling

6 Don't throw the paper away because I ..... it yet.
A haven't read C haven't been reading
B hadn't read D hadn't been reading

7 By the time we arrived, the film ..... .
A has already started C already started
B would already start D had already started

8 We had to walk home in the end because Jimmy ..... his car keys.
A has been losing C was losing
B had lost D had been losing

9 It took Edward a long time to ..... living in Canada.
A be used to C get used to
B used to D be used

10 I'd love to have lived in the old days, when people ..... to market by horse and carriage.
A have been travelling C got used to travelling
B would travel D had been travelling

11 I much preferred it when we ..... to Wales every summer on holiday.
A used to go C had gone
B were used to going D have been going

12 Your teacher called me today and said that you ..... in the playground again.
A had been fighting C have fought
B used to fight D would fight

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