Past perfect simple & continuous Exercise 1

(Intermediate level)

Put the verbs in brackets into their correct forms.

1. After I _____ the letter, I _____ that I _____ the wrong address on it. **(post, realise, write)**
2. John asked me where I _____ the day before. **(be)**
3. At this time yesterday, we _____ for 6 km. **(already walk)**
4. When I _____ through the streets of Madrid, I _____ about the magnificent time I _____ there as a student. **(walk, think, spend)**
5. It was the first time that she _____ me to dinner. **(invite)**
6. As soon as the maid _____ scrubbing the kitchen floor, she _____ working in the garden. **(finish, start)**
7. We started to worry about Jimmy because we _____ him all afternoon. **(call)**
8. They _____ their way out of town before the sun _____. **(already make, rise)**
9. We _____ for two hours when we finally got to our hotel. **(drive)**
10. When I _____ home, I saw that the children _____. **(arrive, leave)**
11. While I _____ in the garden it _____ me that I _____ off the oven. **(work, strike, not turn)**
12. I _____ my best friend to the party, but he couldn't come because he _____ other plans. **(invite, already make)**
13. I _____ out of the window because I _____ I _____ some noises. **(look, think, hear)**
14. We _____ TV when we saw that a devastating earthquake _____ California. **(watch, hit)**
15. The police told me that someone _____ into our neighbour's house. **(break)**
16. When I finally _____ at the airport, he told me that he _____ for half an hour. **(arrive, wait)**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Past Simple / Past Continuous / Past Perfect Simple

A **Choose the correct answer.**

1. I heard a knock at the front door so I (went / was going) to answer it.
2. At this time yesterday, I (wrote / was writing) an essay.
3. The football season (began / was beginning) a month ago.
4. She (had graduated / graduated) from school in 2001.
5. We entered the house quietly because everyone (was sleeping / had slept).
6. By the time we (got / had got) to the cinema, the film had already started.
7. The children (were playing / played) in the garden while their parents were watching them.
8. They (had left / left) many hours before we arrived.

B **Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect Simple.**

1. They ..... (get) to the airport as the plane was landing.
2. She wore the shoes she ..... (buy) the previous day.
3. I fell as I ..... (run) for the bus.
4. What ..... she ..... (say) when he asked her to marry him?
5. When I was a student, I ..... (not have) much money.
6. Why ..... she still ..... (work) at one o'clock in the morning?
7. I was happy to see her, because we ..... (not see) each other for years.
8. By the time we got to the shop, a long queue ..... already .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

C **Choose the sentence which is closer in meaning to the original.**

1. I had already seen the film but I decided to watch it again last night.
   a. I watched the film last night for the first time.
   b. Last night wasn't the first time that I had seen the film.
2. The boys were playing football while it was raining.
   a. The boys were playing football until it started to rain.
   b. The boys played football in the rain.
3. I was writing an e-mail when our computer broke down.
   a. Our computer broke down before I wrote an e-mail.
   b. I had started writing an e-mail and then our computer broke down.
4. My aunt bought me a lovely gift after she had spent the summer holiday with us.
   a. When the summer holiday was over, my aunt bought me a lovely gift.
   b. While my aunt was spending the summer holiday with us, she bought us a lovely gift.

D **Complete the passage with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.**

Until a few years ago, no one 1. ..... (hear) of Harry Potter, the young wizard and hero of the children's book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The writer, J K Rowling, 2. ..... (already / write) several stories and books, but this was the first book that was published. She 3. ..... (get) the idea for the story of a wizard at magic school while she 4. ..... (travel) on a train to London. By the time the train 5. ..... (reach) King's Cross station, she 6. ..... (invent) most of the characters. When the book was published in 1997, no one 7. ..... (imagine) it would be such a tremendous success, but it quickly 8. ..... (become) a bestseller. While millions of young readers in many countries 9. ..... (enjoy) her first Harry Potter book, J K Rowling 10. ..... (think) of ideas for the next book in this incredibly popular series.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE OR PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

1. Parvati _____ the book all afternoon. (read)
2. They _____ for hours. (call)
3. Jenny, how many apples _____? (pick)
4. He is very tired now. He_____. (run)
5. Molly _____ hard. She'll take an exam next week. (study)
6. Dinner's ready. My mother _____ a good meal for the family. (cook)
7. What _____ you _____ Sirius? You are covered in paint. (do)
8. They _____ 4,000 meters. (run)
9. How long _____ Peter _____ for the bus? (wait)
10. My grandparents _____ in this house all their life. (live)
11. My grandpa _____ many different countries. (visit)
12. They _____ the house for Christmas. It looks nice. (decorate)
13. These boys _____for 15 minutes. They _____3 fights this week. (fight / have)
14. They have just arrived home from Spain. They look sunburned. I think they _____ in the sun. (lie)
15. He hasn't_____ anything to help his wife this evening because he _____ TV for the last 2 hours. (do)
16. Kate has to stay at home because it _____ heavily for hours. (rain)
17. He _____ a lot recently. He should give up smoking. (cough)
18. I can smell something sweet. _____you _____ dear? (cook)
19. He _____ 397 miles, from London to Aberdeen. (drive)
20. Someone _____ the window. (broke)

LIVEWORKSHEETS
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