

**In Other Words**

- I've never met such a charming girl.  
She's the most charming girl I've ever met.
- It's a long time since she wrote to me.  
She hasn't written to me for a long time.
- She started learning French two years ago.  
She's been learning French for two years.
- When did he buy the flat?  
How long ago did he buy the flat?  
How long is it since he bought the flat?
- She hasn't returned yet.  
She still hasn't returned.
- I've never seen this film before.  
It's the first time I've ever seen this film.
- She came to London a year ago.  
She has been in London for a year.
- The last time I went out was a month ago.  
I haven't been out for a month.
- He started working as soon as she left.  
He didn't start working until she had left.  
He started working when she had left.  
He waited until she had left before he started working.

**1. Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.**

- While I washed/was washing my hair, the phone rang/ringed.
- How did you felt/did you feel yesterday afternoon?
- When I got/was getting home I received/was receiving a phone call.
- Last summer I was going swimming/went swimming every weekend.
- When the dog bit/was biting Laura's leg, she screamed/was screaming.
- We sang/sung some songs and then ate/eat some sandwiches.
- When you fell/felt over the cliff, what happened/was happening next?
- While Mary washed-up/was washing-up, she broke/was breaking a cup.
- I didn't see/saw where the bus stop was, so I was missing/missed the bus.
- What did you do/were you doing when I phoned/was phoning you last night?  
There was no reply.

**2. Complete each sentence with a suitable time expression from the box. You can use an expression more than once.**

ago      in      last week      at      when      while

- A burglar broke into the house while we were watching television.
- ..... I met an old friend of mine in the city centre.
- What were you doing ..... the police officer knocked on the door?
- Jan met Sarah ..... half-past eight outside the cinema.
- ..... Dick was preparing lunch, he cut his finger badly.
- I first came to this town more than twenty years .....
- Jeff was studying to be a doctor ..... he met Sally.
- Tony bought his first motorbike ..... 1992.
- ..... did you start playing basketball?
- Most of the young people left this village a long time .....

**3. Put each verb in brackets into either the past simple or past continuous.**

- When Harry (wake up) woke up, we (tell) told him the news.
- Everyone (wait) ..... for the concert to begin when a message (arrive) .....
- Charlotte (want) ..... a relaxing holiday, so she (choose) ..... to stay on a small island.
- When Roberto (study) ..... in America, his parents (phone) ..... him every week.
- I (find) ..... my pen while I (look for) ..... my bag.
- Ann (watch) ..... a film on television when Julie (arrive) .....
- When the lights (go out) ....., I (lie) ..... in bed reading.
- When you (go) ..... to the new Chinese restaurant, what (you eat) ..... ?



**4. Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.**

- a) While I *had waited/was waiting/waited* at the bus stop, I *had noticed/was noticing/noticed* a new shop which *wasn't/hadn't been* in the street the day before.
- b) I *had gone/went* out into the garden to fetch my bike, but *found/was finding* that someone *stole/had stolen* it.
- c) When George *met/was meeting* Diane at the party, he *thought/was thinking* that he *saw/had seen/was seeing* her somewhere before.
- d) Emily *got off/was getting off* the bus, and *walked/was walking* into the bank when she *realized/had realized/was realizing* that she *left/had left/was leaving* her handbag on the bus.
- e) After I *was buying/had bought* my new computer, I discovered that I *wasn't having/didn't have* enough memory.
- f) I went to the post office to ask about my package, but they *had said/said* that it still *hadn't arrived/didn't arrive*.

**5. Underline the most suitable verb form in each sentence.**

- a) Did you *see/Have you seen* my bag anywhere? I can't find it.
- b) Larry *is writing/has been writing/has written* his novel for the last two years.
- c) From the minute he got up this morning Gary *asked/has asked/has been asking* silly questions!
- d) *Have you given/Did you give* Helen my message when you *have seen/saw* her?
- e) Sorry, could you say that again? I *didn't listen/haven't listened/haven't been listening* to you.
- f) The police think that they *found/have found* your wallet, so call this number.
- g) Did you *two meet/Have you two met* before? Eric, this is Amanda,
- h) Did you *meet/Have you met* anyone interesting at the reception?

**6. Underline the most suitable verb form in each sentence. The first one is done for you.**

- a) I suddenly remembered that I *forgot/had forgotten* my keys.
- b) While Diana *watched/was watching* her favourite television programme, there was a power-cut.
- c) Tom *used to live/would live* in the house at the end of the street.
- d) Who *was driving/drove* the car at the time of the accident?
- e) By the time Sheila got back, Chris *went/had gone*.
- f) David *ate/had eaten* Japanese food before, so he knew what to order.
- g) I *did/was doing* some shopping yesterday, when I saw that Dutch friend of yours.
- h) I *used to like/was liking* sweets much more than I do now.
- i) What exactly *were you doing/did you do* when I came into your office yesterday?
- j) Laura missed the party because no-one *was telling/had told* her about it.
- k) Tanya *would/used to be* a doctor.

**7. Underline the most suitable time expression.**

- a) I haven't seen Gerry *for/since* a long time. How is he?
- b) It's ages *ago/since* I last went to a football match.
- c) I've written to Deborah *last week/recently*.
- d) What have you been doing *today/yesterday*?
- e) Have you eaten Italian food *before/already*?
- f) I've been living here *in/since* the end of last year.
- g) Actually I had dinner with Sue *last night/lately*.
- h) I've been trying to get in touch with David *for ages/for the last time*.
- i) Terry hasn't been to Edinburgh *since/when* we went there together.
- j) I can't remember *how long/when* I've had this watch.