

C Grammar exercises

1 Match these sentence halves.

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 He's talked to her on the phonej... | a for years. |
| 2 This summer the pool was only open | b on my way home from work yesterday. |
| 3 The whole team felt exhausted | c since nine o'clock this morning. |
| 4 The rent of my flat has gone up | d when the match finished. |
| 5 She's had nothing to eat | e ever since she was very young. |
| 6 I got very wet | f by 20 per cent this year. |
| 7 I spent a month in Brazil | g a few minutes ago. |
| 8 She's always enjoyed painting | h from April till September. |
| 9 I haven't had such a good time | i in 1992. |
| 10 The post arrived | j every night this week. |

2 Fill in the gaps with the present perfect or the past simple of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 This is only the second time I 've ever flown (*ever fly*) in an aeroplane.
- 2 The child (*sleep*) from seven till seven without waking once.
- 3 Gabriella (*grow*) five centimetres since last month.
- 4 I (*send*) Ed three emails last week but he (*not reply*) to any of them yet.
- 5 (*you learn*) to play chess when you were a child?
- 6 I (*buy*) this bicycle five years ago and I (*use*) it every day since then.
- 7 How long (*you have*) that bad cough?
- 8 The train (*just arrive*), so hurry and you might catch it.
- 9 I (*never see*) such a beautiful rainbow before.
- 10 I (*dream*) about a beautiful desert island last night.
- 11 On Sunday we (*meet*) outside the cinema as usual.
- 12 When (*you get*) that jacket? I (*not notice*) it before.

3 Fill in the gaps with a suitable verb in the present perfect or the past simple.

Dear Lewis,

I've been (1) here in Spain for two weeks now and I'm having a really good time. When I (2) at the airport I (3) very lonely. But I (already) (4) some friends and I'm staying with a really nice family. They (5) me to the seaside last weekend and we (6) in the sea. I really (7) it. I (8) some Spanish but I (not) (9) to any language classes yet - they start next week. It's now midnight and I need to go to bed as I (10) a very busy day. I (11) shopping this morning and I (12) tennis this afternoon.

Write back soon.

All the best,

Richard



4 Read this conversation between two people in a sports club. Underline the most suitable form of the verbs.

- Anna: Excuse me. We've waited / We've been waiting (1) to play tennis since 10.30. It must be our turn now. How long have you played / have you been playing (2)?
- Tim: Since about 9.30. We've played / We've been playing (3) two matches so far this morning and we haven't finished / we haven't been finishing (4) the third yet. You'll have to wait or do something else. Have you tried / Have you been trying (5) the swimming pool?
- Anna: We don't want to swim, we want to play tennis. You've played / You've been playing (6) for more than two hours and it's our turn. We're tired of waiting and we haven't got anything to do. We've read / We've been reading (7) the magazines we brought with us.
- Tim: I said you'll have to wait. I always play on a Saturday morning. Anyway, we've already started / we've already been starting (8) the third match.
- Anna: Oh well, it looks like we've got no choice, but we've booked / we've been booking (9) the court for next Saturday so you'll be unlucky then.

D Exam practice

Reading

You are going to read a newspaper article about a news presenter called Katie Derham. Choose from the sentences **A–H** the one which best summarises each part (**1–6**) of the article. There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

- A** She decided she was not talented enough for one particular career.
- B** Other people do not realise what her job is really like.
- C** She is likely to do well despite some mistakes.
- D** She does not accept how famous she really is.
- E** The range of skills she has acquired are an advantage in her present job.
- F** She recognises which skills she needs to develop.
- G** There is no truth in some of the reports we read.
- H** She does not consider herself to be ambitious.

Katie's path to success



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H

When Katie Derham went to Cambridge University to study economics, she fell in love with the place. 'I was so much enjoying my luck at being in such a beautiful place that while I was there I didn't think further than that and that's still the way I am. I enjoy what's on offer at the moment. People don't believe me, as a lot of media people I work with have had to push very hard to get where they are, but I've been lucky. When I left Cambridge I didn't believe life could be better.'

1

But it has got better and continues to do so. Katie Derham is 28 and she is the new face of television news bulletins on ITN. The regular news presenter finished last year. Katie took over from her and has read the news five nights a week since then. She has survived reports of a couple of slips when she misread some news items and the media interest in her points to a bright future.

2

But Katie does not really take the media interest seriously. Becoming so visible has taken some getting used to, but she does not feel it imposes on her life, despite being recognised on the street. It has not gone to her head and her response is typically modest: 'I think people more often think they were at school with me or they've seen me before in the supermarket serving cheese or something.'

3

And stories of fights amongst the news girls are denied: 'There are so many channels, news programmes and air time that there is plenty of space for everyone. There have always been these kinds of rumours. You get to know a lot of presenters but I've found the others are a support to me – at least they understand the kind of pressures which come with the job.'

4

Katie has just moved into a flat near Regent's Park in London. She is a keen musician and is looking forward to getting her piano into the flat so she can start playing again. There was even a brief moment when she considered trying to make a career out of her piano playing, but she says realism intervened: 'I think you should know what your limitations are. I was adequate but never brilliant.'

5

During college Katie considered many 'serious' professions such as management consultancy and accountancy but journalism was always at the back of her mind although she knew no journalists and had very little knowledge of the profession. Eventually she got a job as a secretary at a radio station. She went on to produce and present a range of radio programmes and started to get noticed. She currently combines being ITN's arts and media correspondent with newsreading and brings a solid journalistic background to the job.

6

For the moment, Katie loves her job despite not getting home until nearly midnight some days. 'I try to persuade my friends to have parties which start at midnight! However often I tell them, they don't take in the reality of what's involved in a media job. They just see me on the screen for a few minutes. But I don't mind missing out – I would be delighted if I was still doing this in a couple of years' time.'

Grammar focus task

This is an extract from the text. Without looking back at the text, fill in the gaps with the present perfect simple or the past simple of the verbs in the box.

be fall finish get go have to
not believe not think read take

When Katie Derham **went** (1) to Cambridge University to study economics, she (2) in love with the place. 'I was so much enjoying my luck at being in such a beautiful place that while I was there I (3) further than that and that's still the way I am. I enjoy what's on offer at the moment. People don't believe me, as a lot of media people I work with (4) push very hard to get where they are, but I (5) lucky. When I left Cambridge I (6) life could be better.' But it (7) better and continues to do so. Katie Derham is 28 and she is the new face of television news bulletins on ITN. The regular news presenter (8) last year. Katie (9) over from her and (10) the news five nights a week since then.