

1

GRAMMAR

Past time

Describing events in the past

● Main events

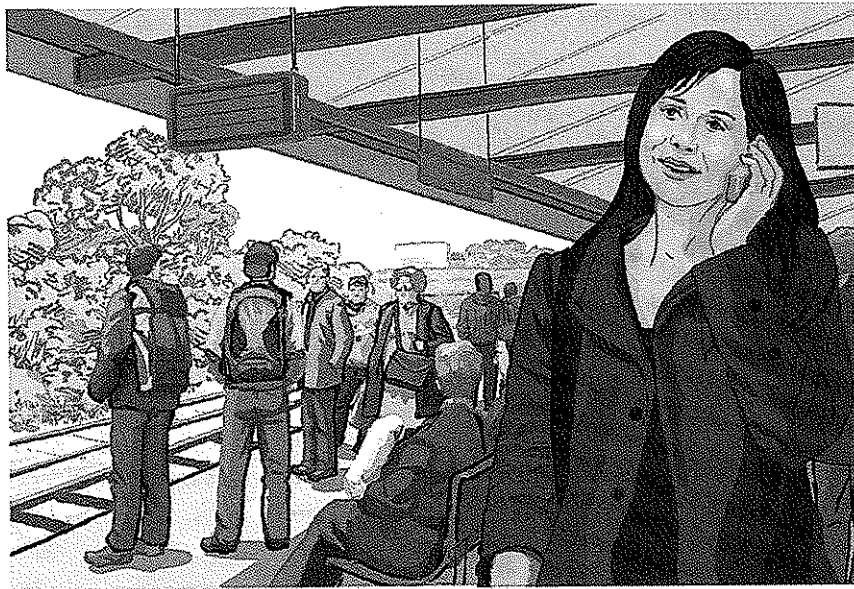
The past simple is used to describe finished actions and events in the past.

*Susan **went** into the station and **bought** a ticket.*

● Background description

The past continuous is used to describe actions in progress in the past. It gives information about the background situation.

*There **were** a lot of people waiting in the station. Some **were sleeping** on the benches, and others **were walking up and down**. Susan **was looking** for Graham, so she didn't sit down.*



● Past perfect

The past perfect is used to make it clear that one past event happens before another past event. We use the past perfect for the earlier event.

*By the time the train arrived, Susan **had managed** to push her way to the front of the crowd.*

It is not always necessary to use the past perfect if a time expression makes the order of events clear.

*Before the train arrived, Susan **managed** to push her way to the front of the crowd.*

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

● Past continuous used with past simple

We often use the past continuous first to set the scene, and then the past simple for the separate, completed actions that happen.

*Susan was looking for Graham, so she **didn't sit down**. Instead, she **tried** calling him on her mobile phone.*

We often contrast an action in progress with a sudden event which interrupts it.

*While Susan was **trying** to get onto the platform, a man **grabbed** her handbag.*

● Participle clauses

Participle clauses are introduced by the time expressions *before*, *after* and *while*. They have the same subject as the following clause.

*After **struggling** with him, Susan **pulled** the bag from his hands.*

Habits in the past

● Past simple

The past simple is used to describe past habits or states. A time expression is usually necessary.

*I **always got up** at six in those days. (habit)*

*I **lived** in Austria for several years. (state)*

● Used to

Used to is used to describe past habits or states. A time expression is not necessary.

*I **used to get up** at six, but now I get up at eight.*

*I **used to own** a horse. (I owned a horse once.)*

With negatives and questions *used to* becomes *did + use to*.

*I **didn't use to** like beer.*

***Did you use to** swim every day?*

When we use *used to* we suggest that the action is no longer true and so make a strong contrast with the present.

● Would

Would is used to describe a person's typical activities in the past.

It can only be used to describe repeated actions, not states. It is mainly used in writing, and in personal reminiscences.

*Every evening was the same. Jack **would turn on** the radio, light his pipe and fall asleep.*

● Past continuous

The past continuous can be used to describe a repeated action in the past, often an annoying habit. A frequency adverb is necessary.

*When Peter was younger, he **was always getting** into trouble.*

Politeness and uncertainty

We can use the past continuous with *think*, *hope* and *wonder* to give a polite or uncertain meaning.

*I **was thinking** of having a party next week.*

*I **was hoping** you would join us at the café tonight.*

*I **was wondering** if you could help me.*

1 Choose the best answer.

Usually, whenever Peter (1) home from a trip he (2) his passport in his desk drawer, but in January, after a trip to Poland, he (3) his passport in the pocket of his overcoat. Two weeks later, he (4) fly to Thailand. While (5) his bag he (6) that he (7) a note of the name of the hotel that his company (8) for him. He (9) for his flight online earlier that morning, but he (10) about the hotel details. While he (11) his office, the doorbell (12) His taxi for the airport (13) He (14) the details of the hotel, (15) his bag and (16) out of the house. He (17) forward to a few sunny days in Bangkok. While he (18) how nice it would be to walk around the city without heavy winter clothes, he suddenly (19) that he (20) his passport in his overcoat.

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | A was returning | B returns | C returned | D returning |
| 2 | A had put | B would put | C was putting | D puts |
| 3 | A had left | B leaves | C was leaving | D leaving |
| 4 | A was having to | B has had to | C had to | D would have to |
| 5 | A packed | B packing | C had packed | D packs |
| 6 | A was realizing | B realizes | C realized | D realizing |
| 7 | A hadn't made | B didn't make | C wouldn't make | D wasn't making |
| 8 | A was booked | B books | C booking | D had booked |
| 9 | A was checking in | B had checked in | C checked in | D used to check in |
| 10 | A forgetting | B forgotten | C had forgotten | D was forgetting |
| 11 | A was phoning | B had phoned | C phoning | D phones |
| 12 | A rung | B ring | C was ringing | D rang |
| 13 | A arriving | B arrive | C was arriving | D had arrived |
| 14 | A was noting | B used to note | C noted | D noting |
| 15 | A picked up | B was picking up | C had picked up | D picking up |
| 16 | A ran | B running | C was running | D run |
| 17 | A looked | B was looking | C looking | D had looked |
| 18 | A had thought | B thinking | C was thinking | D would think |
| 19 | A remembered | B remembers | C was remembering | D remembering |
| 20 | A leaving | B had left | C was leaving | D was left |

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

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

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

3 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable past verb form. Only use the past perfect where this is absolutely necessary.

- 1 While I (try) was trying.... to get my car started, a passing car (stop) and the driver (offer) to help me.
- 2 The police (pay) no attention to Jo's complaint because she (phone) them so many times before.
- 3 Mary (not wear) her glasses at the time, so she (not notice) what kind of car the man (drive)
- 4 Nick (lie) down on the grass for a while, next to some tourists who (feed) the ducks.
- 5 Tony (admit) that he (hit) the other car, but said that he (not damage) it.
- 6 Sorry, I (not listen) to you. I (think) about something else.
- 7 Helen (feel) very tired, and when she (finish) her work, she (fall) asleep.
- 8 The police (get) to Tom's house as fast as they could, but the burglars (disappear)
- 9 I (phone) you last night but you (not answer) What (you do) ..?
- 10 We (not go) out yesterday because it (rain)

4 Decide whether the verb form in italics is suitable or unsuitable.

- 1 While I *had* a bath, someone knocked on the door. *unsuitable*.
- 2 Sally *didn't go* to a boxing match before.
- 3 Harry tried to repair the car, but he didn't really know what he *was doing*.
.....
- 4 What *did you wear* to the end-of-term party?
- 5 *Were you eating* spaghetti every day when you lived in Italy?
- 6 I didn't know you *had bought* a new car.
- 7 They all wanted to believe her, but suspected she *was lying*.
- 8 As Peggy walked home, she tried to remember what *happened*.
- 9 'What a terrible day!' thought Lucy. Everything *had gone wrong!*
- 10 Although it rained a lot, I *was enjoying* my holiday last year.

5 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable past verb form.

The Search for the Lost City

When Professor Mallory, the famous archaeologist,

(1) *invited*..... (invite) me to take part in his expedition to find the
Lost City of the Himalayas, I (2) (not hesitate) to accept
his invitation. Mallory (3) (discover) an ancient map
showing the position of the city, although no European (4)
..... (ever go) to the area before. In fact, most of Mallory's colleagues
either (5) (believe) that the city
(6) (never exist) or (7) (feel) that it
(8) (vanish) long ago and (9) :.....
(become) simply a legend. According to the Professor, the builders of the city
(10) (hide) it among the mountains in order to protect its
immense riches. He (11) (believe) that the descendants of
these ancient people (12) (still keep) themselves apart
from the rest of mankind for the very same reasons. So when we
(13) (set off) on a cool May morning towards the distant
mountains, each of us (14) (look forward) to exciting
discoveries. For a week or more we (15) (climb) higher
and higher, following the map, which Mallory (16)
(study) from time to time. Then one afternoon, while we (17)
(rest) at the top of a valley, we (18) (notice) that a rider
on a horse (19) (wave) at us from the other side of the
valley. A rider whose clothes (20) (shine) like gold!

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

6 Rewrite each sentence beginning as shown. Use a participle clause.

- 1 Norman collected the parcel, but then he realized it was the wrong one.
After *collecting the parcel, Norman realized it was the wrong one.*
.....
- 2 Sue left the house but first she checked that she had her keys.
Before
- 3 Mark was parking his car when he noticed the wing-mirror was broken.
While
- 4 Julia cleaned the house, but then she fell asleep on the sofa.
After
- 5 Brian bought a new television, but first he checked all the prices.
Before
- 6 Alan was skiing in Switzerland and met his old friend, Ken.
While
- 7 Kate took two aspirins, and then she felt a lot better.
After
- 8 Sheila went out for the evening, but first she washed her hair.
Before

Key points

- 1 The past simple describes completed events in the past, such as the main events in a narrative. It can also describe habits and routines in the past.
- 2 The past continuous is used for:
 - a) background description.
 - b) actions in progress, often contrasted with a sudden event.The past continuous cannot be used to describe past routines and habits.
- 3 Participle clauses can introduce a clause giving the main event.
The subjects of both clauses must be the same.
- 4 The past perfect describes a past event which took place before another past event. If *before* or *after* is used, the past perfect is optional.
The past perfect is not used for an event that happened a long time ago in the past.
- 5 *Used to* only refers to past time, and has no present form.
- 6 *Would* can be used to describe habitual actions in the past, usually in writing. It does not make such a strong contrast with the present as *used to*. Compare:
Jim would always make his mother a cup of tea after lunch.
Jim used to drink tea, but now he prefers coffee.
Would cannot be used to describe states.
Sally used to be a dancer.

→ SEE ALSO

Grammar 2: Present perfect

Consolidation 1: Units 1–4

Grammar 6 and 7: Conditionals, Wishes and related forms

Grammar 12: Time expressions

2

GRAMMAR

Present perfect

Recent events

● Present perfect simple

The present perfect simple is used to describe recent events.

I've left my shopping bag behind.

The event happened in the past, but there is a result in the present.

I've broken my arm, as you can see.

No definite time is given for the event, but to emphasize the idea of recentness we can use *just*.

I've just broken my watch.

We can also describe events that have not happened.

I haven't found her phone number yet.

Indefinite events

● Present perfect simple

No definite time is given for the events. They are a series of actions in our life up to now.

I've been to France three times.

After *It's / This is the first / second time* we use the present perfect. It also refers to our life up to now.

This is the first time I have eaten Japanese food.

● Compared with past simple

Events described using the past simple have definite times.

I went to France last year.

I ate at a Japanese restaurant on Saturday.

If we think of a definite place for an event, this may suggest a definite time.

I left my shopping bag on the train.

Extended or repeated events

● Present perfect simple

The present perfect simple describes a state which lasts up to the present.

I've lived in this house for five years.

The present perfect simple can describe a habitual action in a period of time up to the present.

I've always left my bike here, and nobody has complained before!

● Present perfect continuous

The present perfect continuous can also describe a state which lasts up to the present moment.

I've been living in this house for five years.

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

There is little difference in meaning between simple and continuous in this case or in *How long* questions.

*How long have you **lived** / **been living** in this house?*

The verbs *wait, sit, lie, stay* prefer the present perfect continuous.

*I've **been waiting** for ages.*

For, since, ago

See Grammar 12 for contrast between these time expressions.

Present perfect simple or continuous?

● **Completed action**

The present perfect simple can show that an action is complete.

*I've **finished** my homework!*

If we say *how many* or *how much* we use the present perfect simple form. A certain amount has been completed.

*I've **written ten pages** of my homework!*

● **Not completed**

The present perfect continuous can show that an action is not completed, or that it has finished recently.

*We've **been walking** for hours! Let's have a rest.*

*I've **been fixing** my scooter. That's why I'm so dirty!*

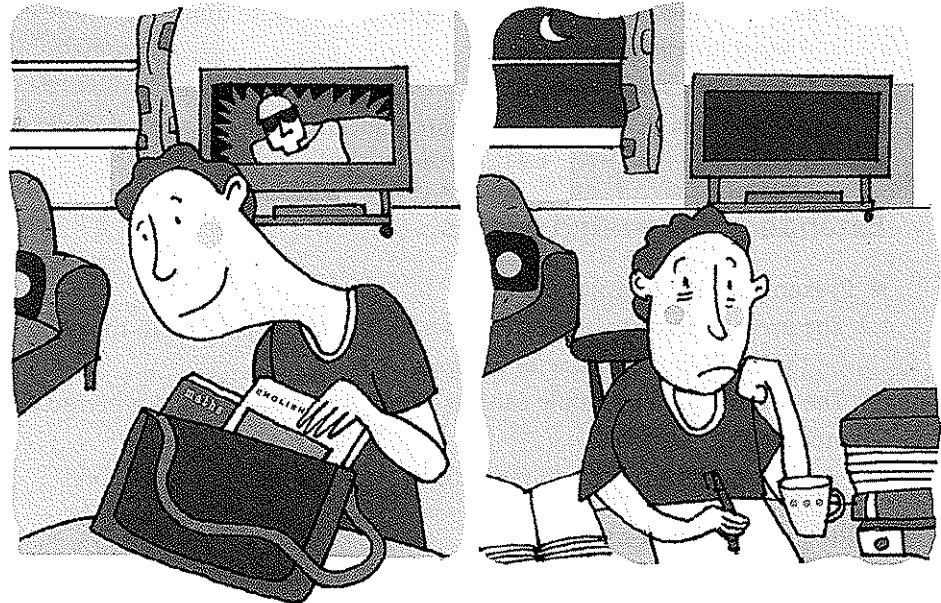
● **Present result or action in progress**

We use the present perfect simple if our attention is on the present result.

*I've **done** my homework. Now I can watch the television.*

We use the present perfect continuous if our attention is on the action in progress.

*I've **been doing** my homework all evening! I didn't know it would take so long.*

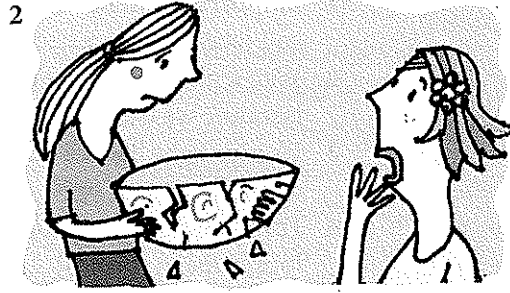


GRAMMAR 2 PRESENT PERFECT

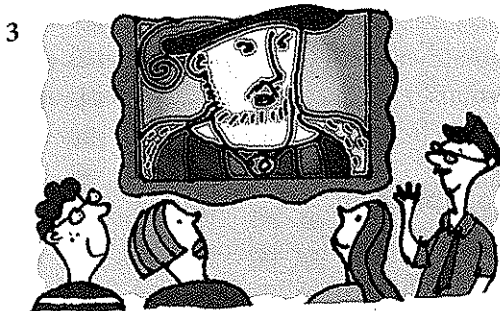
1 Choose the best answer.



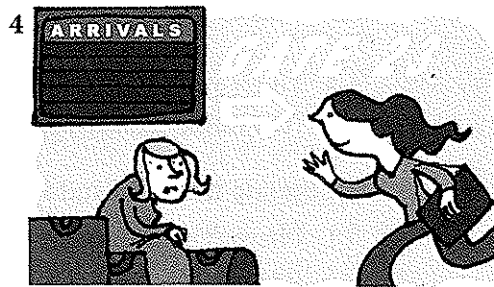
- (a) Did you enjoy the match?
b) Have you enjoyed the match?



- a) What have you been doing?
b) What have you done?



- a) He was married six times.
b) He has been married six times.



- a) How long have you been here?
b) How long are you here for?



- a) I've been waiting for an hour.
b) I waited for an hour.



- a) Where did Wendy go?
b) Where has Wendy been?

2 Underline the most suitable verb form in each sentence.

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

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

3 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable verb form.

- 1 I'm sorry about not coming last week. I (have) ...*had*..... a cold and so I (stay) at home.
- 2 Wait a minute! I (have) an idea. Let's go and see Roger. The last time we (see) him was years ago.
- 3 It's nice to be back. This is the second time I (visit) this country.
- 4 I'm phoning about your bicycle for sale, which I (see) in the local paper. (you sell) it? Or is it still available?
- 5 This place is in a terrible mess! What on earth (you do) ?
- 6 And now for an item of local news. Hampshire police (find) the dangerous snake which (go) missing earlier in the week.
- 7 This tooth (hurt) a lot lately. So I (make) an appointment with the dentist for next Tuesday.
- 8 I can't give you the report I (promise) for today because I (not finish) it.

4 Underline the most suitable time expression.

- 1 I haven't seen Gerry *for / since* a long time. How is he?
- 2 It's ages *ago / since* I last went to a football match.
- 3 I've written to Deborah *last week / recently*.
- 4 What have you been doing *today / yesterday*?
- 5 Have you eaten Italian food *before / already*?
- 6 I've been living here *in / since* the end of last year.
- 7 Actually I had dinner with Sue *last night / lately*.
- 8 I've been trying to get in touch with David *for ages / for the last time*.
- 9 Terry hasn't been to Edinburgh *since / when* we went there together.
- 10 I can't remember *how long / when* I've had this watch.

5 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 two and five words, including the word given.

- 1 Steve started learning the violin a month ago.
learning
Steve ...*has been learning*..... the violin for a month.
- 2 I haven't been to an Indian restaurant for ages.
since
It's ages an Indian restaurant.
- 3 When she heard the results, Mary began to feel more confident.
become
Since hearing the results more confident.
- 4 The last time Nancy came here was in 1986.
since
Nancy hasn't 1986.

GRAMMAR 2 PRESENT PERFECT

- 5 This is my first visit to Japan.
time
 This is the first to Japan.
- 6 How long have Helen and Robert been married?
get
 When married?
- 7 Jack bought those trousers last month, and has been wearing them ever since.
for
 Jack has a month.
- 8 It's a long time since our last conversation.
spoken
 We long time.
- 9 Thanks, but I had something to eat earlier.
already
 Thanks, but I've eat.
- 10 This is my first game of water-polo.
played
 I before.

- 6 Put each verb in brackets into either the past simple, the present perfect simple, or the present perfect continuous.

It was announced in London this morning that the British Oil Corporation (1) *has discovered* (discover) oil under the sea near the Welsh coast. The company, which (2) (drill) for oil in the area since 2007, (3) (find) small amounts of oil near Swansea last month, and since then (4) (discover) larger amounts under the seabed nearby. Last year the government (5) (lend) over £50,000,000 to BOC, and (6) (give) permission for the company to build an oil refinery and other facilities in South Wales.

The reaction of local people to today's news (7) (be) mixed so far. Local MPs (8) (already welcome) the news, pointing out that the oil industry will bring badly needed jobs to the area. But local residents are worried about the danger of pollution. 'Nobody (9) (ask) us yet what we want,' said Ann Griffiths, leader of the Keep Out The Oil Campaign. 'Look what (10) (happen) when they (11) (find) oil in Scotland in the 1960s. The oil companies (12) (get) rich, not the local people. BOC (13) (not tell) us the truth about what this is going to mean for our people.' A BOC spokesman later (14) (refuse) to comment. Meanwhile local campaigners (15) (ask) the government to hold an inquiry.

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

7 Put each verb in brackets into either the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous.

- 1 Someone (eat) *has eaten* all the cakes. I'll have to buy some more.
- 2 What (you buy) your sister for her birthday?
- 3 My throat is really sore. I (sing) all evening.
- 4 Brenda (learn) Russian, but she finds it difficult.
- 5 How many people (you invite) to your party?
- 6 Those two cats (sit) on that branch for the last hour.
- 7 It (rain) all day! Why can't it stop?
- 8 Susan (wear) twelve different dresses in the past week!
- 9 I (do) everything you asked. What should I do now?
- 10 Graham and Pauline (try) to find a house for ages, but they can't find one they can afford.

8 Choose the best answer for each space.

✉ Mail
← Reply
✉ New Message
Forward →
🗑 Delete
🗑 Junk

Dear Andy and Sally

Just a quick e-mail to explain what we have done (1) *C* we were last in contact. The work on the kitchen has gone well so far, although we (2) building the outside wall of the kitchen extension yet. If you remember, I e-mailed you last week and explained that my bricklayer was off sick. He (3) his back playing football, and had to spend a couple of days in bed. Anyway, I'm glad to say that he has now recovered. He (4) back to work yesterday, and he (5) on the wall. It (6) most of the time here, so it has been hard to do any outside work in any case. We have now finished most of the plumbing and the electrics inside, and we have also replaced the new kitchen window with a larger one, as we (7) before you left. We (8) fitting the kitchen yet. If you remember, you wanted to make some changes to the design, but I (9) any detailed instructions from you yet. Did you get the e-mail I sent on 15th July? I tried phoning you on your mobile yesterday, and I left you a message, but we need to talk about this. I hope you (10) a good time in Ireland.

Tony Galt
Galt Building Services

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 A when | B before | C since | D after |
| 2 A didn't finish | B haven't finished | C have finished | D finished |
| 3 A hurt | B has been hurting | C was hurt | D has hurt |
| 4 A has come | B came | C has been coming | D was coming |
| 5 A has now worked | B has now been working | C is now working | D now works |
| 6 A was raining | B has been raining | C rains | D rained |
| 7 A have been discussing | B discussed | C have discussed | D discuss |
| 8 A didn't start | B aren't starting | C don't start | D haven't started |
| 9 A haven't received | B am not receiving | C don't receive | D didn't receive |
| 10 A have | B had | C been having | D to have |

Key points

- 1 The present perfect simple describes events without a definite time. Either these events take place in a period of time leading up to the present moment, or we can clearly see the result of the event.

The choice between the present perfect simple and the past simple can depend on how the speaker thinks. Compare:

A: *What's the matter?* B: *I've had an accident.*

A: *What's the matter?* B: *I had an accident.*

In the second example, the speaker thinks of the event as finished rather than still connected with the present.

- 2 Events described with the present perfect simple may be recent, or not.

Ouch! I've just cut my finger. (immediate)

They have improved this hotel a lot. (no definite time – not recent)

- 3 The present perfect continuous is used for an action in progress. It suggests that the action is unfinished, or recently finished. Compare:

I've read this book. (completion of the action is emphasized)

I've been reading this book. (the action itself is emphasized – it may not be complete)

The present perfect continuous can also emphasize the length of time of the action.

- 4 *For* refers to a finished or unfinished period of time.

I waited for three hours.

He's been sitting there for ages.

Since refers to the point at which an unfinished period of time began.

He's been sitting there since two o'clock.

Ago refers to the time of a finished event.

Jill arrived a week ago.

→ **SEE ALSO**

Grammar 1: Past time

Consolidation 1: Units 1–4

Grammar 12: Time expressions

3

GRAMMAR

Future time

Prediction

- **Will**

Will is used to make predictions. It is often preceded by *I think* or by opinion words like *perhaps*. There is often a future time expression.

I think it'll rain tomorrow. Perhaps she'll be late.

In speech, *will* is contracted to 'll.

See also Grammar 15 and 16 for functional uses of *will*.

- **Going to**

Going to is also used for predictions. It is especially common when we can see the cause of the event.

Look out! There's a bus coming! It's going to hit us!

I can see you're going to have a baby. When is it due?

You're going to fall!

Going to is also common in impersonal statements.

Liverpool are going to win the Cup.

We can also use *will* for most impersonal statements like this, with no change of meaning.

- **Future continuous**

The future continuous is used to describe a situation in progress at a particular time in the future.

This time next week I expect I'll be living in London. And I'll probably be cycling to work.

- **Future perfect**

The future perfect looks back from a point in the future.

By the time we get there, the film will have started.

It refers to indefinite time up to that point. This means that when we get to the future point we can say:

The film has started.

Intention

- **Going to**

Going to is used to describe a present intention or plan. This is something we have already decided to do.

I'm going to fix the television tomorrow.

- **Will**

Will is used for instant decisions made at the time of speaking.

I know, I'll get him a wallet for his birthday.

Fixed arrangements and timetables

● **Present continuous**

The present continuous is used with a time expression to describe definite, fixed arrangements.

Sorry, I can't help you, I'm leaving in the morning.

The arrangements are often social arrangements or appointments and may be written in a diary.

● **Present simple**

The present simple is used with a time expression to describe future events which are based on a timetable, programme or calendar.

My train leaves at 11.30 tomorrow morning.

When, until, as soon as

After the time expressions *when*, *until* and *as soon as* a present tense form is used, although this refers to future time.

*I'll wait for you here **until** you **get** back.*

The present perfect simple is often used in cases like this to emphasize the completion of an event.

*I'll wait here **until** you **have finished**.*

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

1 Underline the most suitable future form in each sentence.

- 1 Why are you going to buy / will you buy a new mountain bike?
- 2 Don't phone between 8.00 and 9.00. I'll study / I'll be studying then.
- 3 Look out! That tree will / is going to fall!
- 4 Let me know as soon as Louise will get / gets there.
- 5 Great news! Jean and Chris will come / are coming to stay with us.
- 6 According to this timetable, the bus is going to arrive / arrives at 6.00.
- 7 Can you call me this evening, because I'll leave / I'm leaving tomorrow.
- 8 If you arrive late at the sale, the best things will go / will have gone.

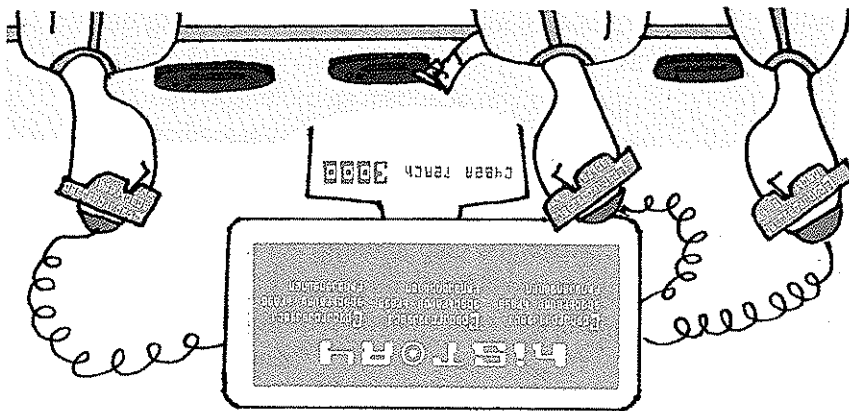
2 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable future form. More than one answer may be possible.

- 1 I can't see you on Thursday afternoon. I (visit) am visiting our Birmingham branch.
- 2 George (not be) back until six. Can I take a message?
- 3 What (you buy) with the money you won in the lottery?
- 4 I don't think you (have) any problems at the airport.
- 5 (you take) your dog with you to Scotland?
- 6 All the hotels are full. Where (we spend) the night?
- 7 You'd better not come in July. My mother (stay) with me then.
- 8 What time (your plane leave) ?

3 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable future form. More than one answer may be possible.

- 1 By the time we reach home, the rain (stop) will have stopped
- 2 This time next week I (lie) on the beach in Spain.
- 3 In ten years' time I (work) for a different company.
- 4 If we don't get there by 6.00, Jack (leave)
- 5 In July they (be married) for twenty years.
- 6 In the year 2500 a lot of people (live) on the Moon.
- 7 When you get to the station, I (wait) for you outside.
- 8 Don't worry! The plane (land) in a moment.
- 9 By the time you come home, I (finish) the decorating.
- 10 Come round between eight and nine. We (watch) the match on television then.

4 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable future form.



Have you ever wondered what exactly (1) *gain, will, be doing* (you do) in ten years time? Well, according to computer expert Tom Vincent, computers (2) (soon be able) to make accurate predictions about the future. Professor Vincent, from Cambridge, (3) (hold) a press conference next week to describe the computer which he calls 'Computafuture'; 'This computer can tell us what life (4) (be) like, based on data describing past events,' explains Professor Vincent. For example, Computafuture can predict how many people (5) (live) in a particular area, or whether there (6) (be) a lot of rain during a particular period. Professor Vincent also believes that by the year 2050, computers (7) (replace) teachers, and (8) (also do) most of the jobs now being done by the police. 'Computers are becoming more intelligent all the time,' says Professor Vincent. 'Soon they (9) (direct) traffic and (10) (teach) our children. And telling us about the future.'

5 Put each verb in brackets into a suitable verb form. All sentences refer to future time.

- 1 When I (see) *see* you tomorrow, I (tell) you my news.
- 2 As soon as we (get) there, we (phone) for a taxi.
- 3 I (go) to the library before I (do) the shopping.
- 4 We (wait) here until the rain (stop)
- 5 I (get) £50 from the bank when it (open)
- 6 After you (take) the medicine, you (feel) better.
- 7 You have to stay until you (finish) your work.
- 8 I (let) you know the minute I (hear) the results.
- 9 Before we (paint) the wall, we (have) a cup of tea.
- 10 We (climb) over the wall as soon as it (get) dark.

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

- 6 Look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. Tick each correct line. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word in the space.

Keeping a diary

Are you one of those people who will knowwill.....
exactly what they will be doing every day next✓.....
week? When the different days will arrive,	1
will you have get out your diary, or are	2
you the kind of person who will just guess?	3
Some people will write their appointments	4
in a diary, but others just hope that they will	5
remember. For example, tonight I'm be going	6
to the cinema, but perhaps I'll not forget all	7
about it. You see, I will never keep a diary.	8
I try not to forget my appointments, but I know	9
that I will usually do. I just don't like planning	10
my future. I know that one day I'm going to	11
make a serious mistake. I'll be miss an important	12
examination, or by the time I remember it and	13
get there, it will have been finished. Perhaps	14
that will be when I have finally buy a diary.	15

Key points

- 1 For functional uses of *will*, see Grammar 15 and 16.
- 2 The present continuous is used to describe fixed arrangements, and to ask about social arrangements.

Are you doing anything this evening?

- 3 The present simple and present perfect can be used to refer to future time after the words *when*, *until* and *as soon as*.

I'll tell you the news when I see you.

Call me when you have finished.

→ SEE ALSO

Consolidation 1: Units 1–4

Grammar 12: Time expressions

Grammar 15 and 16: Functional uses of *will*

4

GRAMMAR

Present time

Present simple

- **Facts which are always true**

The present simple is used to describe permanent facts, for example in science and geographical descriptions.

The light from the Sun takes 8 minutes and 20 seconds to reach the Earth.

The River Po flows into the Adriatic Sea.

The present simple is also used for situations that are generally true.

I work in an office and live in a flat in the suburbs.

- **Habitual actions**

The present simple is used to describe habits and routines. A frequency adverb is often used.

I usually take the bus to work.

- **Summary of events**

The present simple can be used to make a summary of the events in a narrative, for example in a film or book. It can also be used for a table of historical events.

In Chapter 1, Susan meets David, and agrees to go to the school dance with him.

In 1789 the French Revolution begins.

Present continuous

- **Actions which are in progress now**

The present continuous is used to describe actions which are temporary and not yet finished.

I'm doing the washing-up.

The action may be happening right now, or around now.

I'm reading one of the Harry Potter books at the moment.

- **Habits during a temporary situation**

The present continuous can describe a habit that happens over a short period of time. A time expression is necessary.

At the moment we're sending all the mail by courier, because the Post Office is on strike.

- **A repeated temporary action**

The present continuous can describe a single action that is repeated. A time expression is necessary.

Whenever I see Tom he's smoking.

You're making the same mistake again!

In examples like this we are often exaggerating or complaining. This is particularly true when we use *always*.

You're always borrowing money from me!

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

Problems with simple and continuous

- Some verbs are not normally used in the continuous form, because they describe activities which already extend in time. These are called 'state' verbs.

be, believe, cost, depend, have, hear, know, matter, smell, suppose, taste, think, understand

- Some of these verbs can be used in continuous forms with a change of meaning.

Tim is being rather difficult at the moment. (behave)

I'm having breakfast. (eat)

I'm tasting the soup, to check if it needs more salt. (sample)

I'm thinking of buying a new car. (consider)

- Other verbs with change of meaning:

I see what you mean. (understand)

Jane is seeing Brian a lot at the moment. (meet, go out with)

- In many situations we can use either a simple or continuous form. The simple form is for a permanent situation or general habit, the continuous form is for a temporary situation.

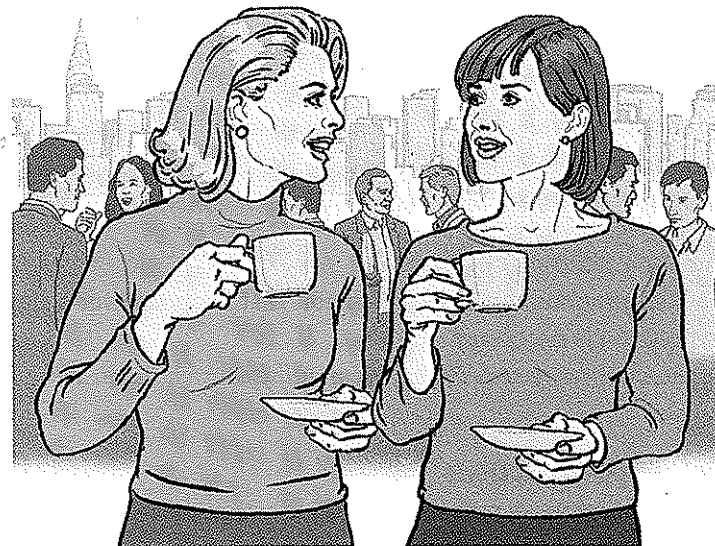
I live in London. (it's my permanent home)

I'm living in London. (just for a year – my home is in Athens)

Do you sleep a lot? (Is it your habit?)

Are you sleeping enough? (What is happening at the moment?)

I live in Edinburgh but I'm staying in New York for a few weeks.



GRAMMAR 4 PRESENT TIME

1 Underline the most suitable verb form in each sentence.

- 1 What sort of work *do you do* / *are you doing*?
- 2 I can't talk now. *I cook* / *I'm cooking* the dinner.
- 3 What shall we have? *Do you like* / *Are you liking* fish?
- 4 Can I borrow this laptop? Or *do you use* / *are you using* it?
- 5 What *do the people here do* / *are the people here doing* in the evenings?
- 6 Follow that bus. Then you *turn* / *are turning* left.
- 7 A lot of people think that the Sun *goes* / *is going* around the Earth.
- 8 Excuse me, *do you read* / *are you reading* your newspaper? Could I borrow it?
- 9 *Do you wait* / *Are you waiting* for the bus to Newcastle?
- 10 Andy *builds* / *is building* his own house in the country.

2 Put each verb in brackets into either the present simple or the present continuous.

- 1 There's nobody here, and the door's locked. What (we do) *...do we do...* now?
- 2 What (you look) at? (I wear) the wrong clothes?
- 3 I (look after) Jack's dog this weekend. (you want) to take it for a walk?
- 4 Who (drive) the Mercedes that's parked outside?
- 5 I (still have) a pain in my leg but it (get) better.
- 6 Who (Sue dance) with? That's not her brother, is it?
- 7 Harry always (look) untidy! And today he (wear) dirty jeans.
- 8 I (write) in reply to your advertisement in the *Daily News*.
- 9 That plant I bought (not grow) very much. And I (water) it every day.
- 10 Which hotel (you stay) at when you (come) here?

3 Decide whether the verb form in italics refers to present or future time.

- 1 Where *are you staying* on Saturday night? *future*.....
- 2 The director *retires* at the end of next year.
- 3 What *are we doing* when the guests arrive?
- 4 *I'm trying* really hard to understand this book.
- 5 Wait for me here until I *get* back.
- 6 Sue *is leaving* in the morning.
- 7 *I'm waiting* for the bus.
- 8 I'm off now and *I'm taking* the car.
- 9 *They're showing* a Woody Allen film on Channel 4 tonight.
- 10 *I'm going* for a walk this evening.

FIRST CERTIFICATE LANGUAGE PRACTICE

4 Write each verb in the *-ing* form, then complete the spelling rules below.

write <i>writing</i>	swim	get
admit	annoy	begin
study	like	try
decide		

- 1 If a word ends in vowel + consonant + *-e* (*write*)
- 2 If a word ends in vowel + consonant (*swim*)
- 3 Words which end in *-y* (*try, annoy*)

5 Rewrite each sentence. Use a verb from the box to replace the words in *italics*.

be	cost	feel	have	see	smell	taste	have	think of	have
----	------	------	------	-----	-------	-------	------	----------	------

- 1 This flower *has* a wonderful *perfume*.
.....*this flower smells wonderful*.....
- 2 I think you *are behaving* in a very silly way.
.....
- 3 She is *expecting* a baby in the summer.
.....
- 4 Nancy *is considering* moving to Scotland.
.....
- 5 Don't go in. They *are holding* a meeting.
.....
- 6 I *am meeting* Janet this evening actually.
.....
- 7 Good clothes *are becoming* more and more *expensive*.
.....
- 8 I *am trying* the soup to see if it needs more salt.
.....
- 9 Helen *is taking* a bath at the moment.
.....
- 10 I *think* that you would be happier in another job.
.....

6 Put each verb in brackets into either the present simple or the present continuous.

Dear Aunt Jean,

I (1) ~~am just writing~~ (just write) to tell you how much I (2)
 (appreciate) the money you sent me, and to tell you how I (3)
 (get on) in my first term at university. Actually, I (4)
 (really enjoy) myself! I (5) (study) quite hard as well, but at
 the moment I (6) (spend) a lot of time just making friends.
 I (7) (still stay) with my friend Sue, and I
 (8) (look for) somewhere of my own to live. Only a few of the
 first-year students (9) (live) in college here, and I
 (10) (seem) to be spending a lot of time travelling
 backwards and forwards. I (11) (go) to lectures every
 morning, and most afternoons I (12) (study) in the library.
 In fact I (13) (write) this letter instead of finishing my
 project! I (14) (think) I'll buy some new clothes with the
 money you sent. Everything (15) (cost) a lot here, and I
 (16) (save) to buy a winter coat. It (17)
 (get) really cold here in the evenings. I now (18) (know) some
 other students and generally speaking we (19) (have) quite
 a good time socially! I (20) (also learn) to drive.
 See you soon.
 Katherine

Key points

- 1 The present simple describes facts and habitual actions. The present continuous describes actions which are still in progress at the time of speaking.
- 2 Many verbs which describe states rather than momentary events can only be used in the simple form. Many verbs describing mental activities (*understand, know*) are of this kind.
- 3 Some verbs have both state and event meanings, but the meanings are not the same.
- 4 When describing a photograph, we usually describe the scene as if it is happening now, and use the present continuous.
- 5 Present tense forms are also used to refer to future time. See Grammar 3.
- 6 Where some languages use present tenses, English uses the present perfect. See Grammar 2.

I've lived in Milan all my life.

→ SEE ALSO

Grammar 3: Future time
Consolidation 1: Units 1–4