

Present simple (I do) and present continuous (I am doing) (1)

A We use the present simple to describe things that are always true, or situations that exist now and, as far as we know, will go on indefinitely:

- It takes me five minutes to get to school.
- Trees grow more quickly in summer than in winter.
- Liz plays the violin brilliantly.

B To talk about particular actions or events that have begun but have not ended at the time of speaking, we use the present continuous:

- The car isn't starting again.
- 'Who are you phoning?' 'I'm trying to get through to Joan.'
- The shop is so inefficient that many customers are taking their business elsewhere.

We often use time expressions such as **at the moment**, **at present**, **currently**, **just**, and **still** to emphasise that the action or event is happening now:

- 'Have you done the shopping?' 'I'm just going.'

Notice that the action or event may not be going on at the time of speaking:

- The police are talking to a number of people about the robbery.

C We use the present simple to talk about habits or things that happen on a regular basis:

- I leave work at 5.30 most days.
- Each July we go to Turkey for a holiday.

However, when we describe repeated actions or events that are happening at or around the time of speaking, we use the present continuous:

- Why are you jumping up and down?
- I'm hearing a lot of good reports about your work these days.

We can use the present continuous or the present simple to describe something that we regularly do at a particular time. Compare:

- We usually watch the news on TV at 9.00. (= we start watching at 9.00)
- We're usually watching the news on TV at 9.00. (= we're already watching at 9.00)

D We use the present continuous to imply that a situation is or may be temporary. Compare:

- Banks lend money to make a profit. (this is what usually happens)
- Banks are lending more money (these days) to encourage businesses to expand. (implies a temporary arrangement)
- She teaches Maths in a school in Bonn. (a permanent arrangement)
- She's teaching Maths in a school in Bonn. (implies that this is not, or may not be, permanent)

E We often use the present simple with verbs that perform the action they describe:

- I admit I can't see as well as I used to. (= an admission)
- I refuse to believe that he didn't know the car was stolen. (= a refusal)

Other verbs like this (sometimes called *performative* verbs) include **accept**, **acknowledge**, **advise**, **apologise**, **assume**, **deny**, **guarantee**, **hope**, **inform**, **predict**, **promise**, **recommend**, **suggest**, **suppose**, **warn**.

We can use modals with performative verbs to make what we say more tentative or polite:

- I would advise you to arrive two hours before the flight leaves.
- I'm afraid I have to inform you that your application for funding has been turned down.

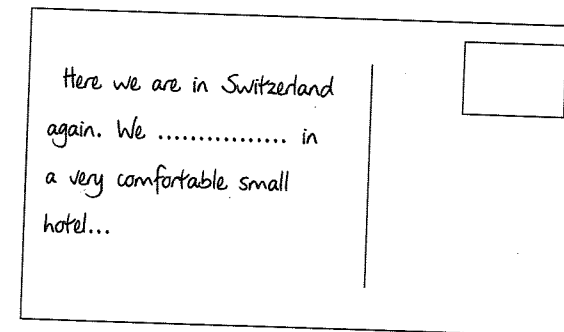
EXERCISES

1.1 Suggest a verb to complete each sentence. Use the present simple or present continuous. Use *h* to add any words outside the space, as in the example. (A & B)

- 1 Even though Sarah says she's feeling better, I think she ^{is} still *losing* weight.
- 2 Frank stamps in his spare time. It's his hobby.
- 3 The airline currently half-price tickets to Japan, but for one month only.
- 4 My mother all the doors and windows before she goes to bed.
- 5 Because of the present threat of war, the best qualified people the country.
- 6 Both ancient and recent records show that farmers long hours.
- 7 She has an important project to finish by next week, so she in the evenings at present.
- 8 Philip is an excellent linguist.

He six languages fluently. 10

- 9 'How are you getting on with the book?' 'At the moment I chapter four.'



1.2 Complete these texts with one of these sets of verbs, using each verb once only. Choose either the present simple or present continuous for all the missing verbs in each text. Use *h* to add any words outside the spaces. (A to E)

say/tell/do talk/threaten/negotiate recommend/warn/apologise
spend/recover/find suggest/hope/promise

- 1 She ^{is} *recovering* from the operation and ^{is} still *finding* it difficult to move about. At the moment she *is spending* most of her time in bed.
- 2 What I is that you well in your job. Really! I you the truth.
- 3 I I'll do everything I can to help you find a flat, although I that you also advertise in the local newspaper. It can be difficult to find accommodation, but I it won't be too long before you've got somewhere.
- 4 The fishing unions with their employers for a pay rise. If there is no agreement by next week, they to strike and even about blockading ports around the country.
- 5 I for the delay in replying to your letter. To place an order for the book you require, I that you telephone Mrs Jones in our sales department. I you, however, that delivery time is likely to be about six weeks.

1.3 Complete the sentences with the verbs given, using the present continuous or the present simple. If both are possible write them both, and consider the difference in meaning. Use *h* to add any words outside the space. (C & D)

- 1 'Shall I phone at 6.00?' 'No, we normally dinner at that time.' (cook)
- 2 Since I won the lottery, my telephone hasn't stopped ringing. People to ask how I'm going to spend the money. (phone)
- 3 Alice her mother in London most weekends. (see)
- 4 We usually up at about 7.00. Couldn't you come an hour later? (get up)
- 5 I swimming in the evenings to try to lose weight. (go)

Present simple (I do) and present continuous (I am doing) (2)

A

We often prefer to use the present simple rather than the present continuous with verbs describing states:

- I really **enjoy** travelling.
 - The group **currently consists of** five people, but we hope to get more members soon.
- Other common state verbs include **agree, assume, believe, belong to, contain, cost, disagree, feel, hate, have, hope, know, like, look, love, own, prefer, realise, regret, resemble, smell, taste.**

However, we can use the present continuous with some state verbs when we want to emphasise that a situation is temporary, for a period of time around the present. Compare:

- I **consider** him to be extremely fortunate. (This is my view) *and*
- I'm **considering** taking early retirement. (This is something I'm thinking about now)
- The children **love** having Jean stay with us. (They love it when Jean stays) *and*
- The children **are loving** having Jean stay with us. (Jean is staying with us now)

With some verbs used to describe a temporary state (e.g. **ache, feel, hurt, look (= seem)**), there is little difference in meaning when we use the present simple and present continuous:

- What's the matter with Bill? He **looks / is looking** awful.

When **have** has a non-state meaning – for example when it means 'eat', 'undergo', 'take' or 'hold' – we can use the present continuous:

- 'What's that terrible noise?' 'The neighbours **are having** a party.'

We use the present continuous when we talk about changes, developments, and trends:

- The growing number of visitors **is damaging** the footpaths.
- I'm **beginning** to realise how difficult it is to be a teacher.

B

When we tell a story or joke we often describe the main events using the present (or past) simple and longer, background events using the present (or past) continuous:

- She **goes (or went)** up to this man and **looks (or looked)** straight into his eyes. She's **carrying (or was carrying)** a bag full of shopping...

We can also use the present simple and present continuous like this in commentaries (for example, on sports events) and in giving instructions:

- King **serves** to the left hand court and Adams **makes** a wonderful return. She's **playing** magnificent tennis in this match...
- You **hold** the can in one hand. Right, you're **holding** it in one hand; now you **take off** the lid with the other.



C

When we want to emphasise that something is done repeatedly, we can use the present continuous with words like **always, constantly, continually, or forever**. Often we do this when we want to show that we are unhappy about it, including our own behaviour:

- They're **constantly having** parties until the early hours of the morning.

We use the past continuous (see Unit 6) in the same way:

- He **was forever including** me in his crazy schemes.

D

The present simple is used to report what we have heard or what we have read:

- This newspaper article **explains** why unemployment has been rising so quickly.

We also use the present simple in spoken English in phrases such as **I gather, I hear, I see, and I understand** to introduce news that we have heard, read or seen (e.g. on television):

- I **gather** you're worried about the new job?
- The Prince is coming to visit, and I **hear** he's very rich.

EXERCISES

2.1 Complete the sentences with appropriate verbs. Use the same verb for each sentence in the pair. Choose the present continuous if possible; if not, use the present simple. (A)

- a It us a fortune at the moment to send our daughter to dance classes.
b It a fortune to fly first class to Japan.
- a I sitting down at the end of a long day and reading a good book.
b It's a wonderful book. I every moment of it.
- a We've always wanted a house in the country, but we on where it should be.
b When they agree with each other on so many important issues, I can't understand why they now on this relatively minor matter.
- a With growing concerns about the environment, people to use recycled paper products.
b He doesn't like publicity, and to stay firmly in the background.
- a 'Can I speak to Dorothy?' 'She a shower. Can I take a message?'
b My brother three children, all girls.
- a Although he three cars, all of them are extremely old.
b In the north of the country, fewer and fewer people the houses they live in.

2.2 Choose the present simple or present continuous for the verbs in these texts. (B)

- Fletcher (pass) to Coles who (shoot) just over the bar. United (attack) much more in this half...
- A man (come) home late one night after the office Christmas party. His wife (wait) for him, and she (say) to him...
- Now that the rice (cook) you (chop up) the carrots and tomatoes and you (put) them in a dish...

2.3 Expand one of the sets of notes below to complete each dialogue. (C)

continually/change/mind forever/moan/work forever/ask me/money
constantly/criticise/driving always/complain/handwriting

- A: I can't read this. B: You're **always complaining** about my handwriting.
- A: Can I borrow £10? B: You're...
- A: That was a dangerous thing to do! B: You're...
- A: I think I'll stay here after all. B: You're...
- A: I had a bad day at the office again. B: You're...

2.4 How might you report the news in these headlines using the phrases given? (D)

MORE CASH FOR HEALTH SERVICE

QUAKE HITS CENTRAL IRAN

QUEEN TO VISIT INDIA IN SPRING

SCIENTISTS FIND BRIGHTEST STAR

I see...
I understand...
I gather...
It says here...

Example: I see that the Queen's going to visit India next spring.

Present perfect (I have done) and past simple (I did) (1)

A Present perfect

When we talk about something that happened in the past, but we don't specify precisely *when* it happened (perhaps we don't know, or it is not important to say when it happened), we use the present perfect (but see E below):

- A French yachtsman **has broken** the record for sailing round the world single-handed.
- I **have complained** about the traffic before.

B

When we use the present perfect, it suggests some kind of connection between what happened in the past, and the present time. Often we are interested in the way that something that happened in the past affects the situation that exists now:

- I've **washed** my hands so that I can help you with the cooking.
- We can't go ahead with the meeting, because very few people **have shown** any interest.

The connection with the present may also be that something happened recently, with a consequence for the present:

- I've **found** the letter you were looking for. Here it is.
- My ceiling **has fallen in** and the kitchen is flooded. Come quickly!

C

When we talk about *how long* an existing situation has lasted, even if we don't give a precise length of time, we use the present perfect (but see F below):

- They've **grown** such a lot *since we last saw them*.
- Prices **have fallen** sharply *over the past six months*.
- We've **recently started** to walk to work instead of taking the bus.

D

We often use the present perfect to say that an action or event has been repeated a number of times up to now (see also Unit 4B):

- They've **been to** Chile *three times*.
- I've **often wished** I'd learned to read music.

E

Past simple

When we want to indicate that something happened at a specific time in the past, we use the past simple. We can either say when it happened, using a time adverb, or assume that the hearer already knows when it happened or can understand this from the context:

- She **arrived** at Kennedy Airport *at 2 o'clock this morning*.
- Jane **left** *just a few minutes ago*.
- Jim **decided** to continue the course, even though it was proving very difficult.

F

We use the past simple for situations that existed for a period of time in the past, but not now:

- When I was younger I **played** badminton for my local team.
- The Pharaohs **ruled** Egypt for thousands of years.

G

If we are interested in *when* a present situation began rather than *how long* it has been going on for, we use the past simple. Compare:

- I **started** to get the pains three weeks ago.
- I've **had** the pains for three weeks now.
- When **did** you arrive in Britain?
- How long **have** you **been** in Britain?

However, we also use the past simple to talk about how long something went on for if the action or event is no longer going on (see also Unit 4C):

- I **stayed** with my grandparents *for six months*. (= I am no longer staying there)
- 'He spent some time in Paris when he was younger.' 'How long **did** he live there?'

EXERCISES

3.1 Choose a verb with either the present perfect or past simple for these sentences. (A & E)

agree appear continue disappear move reach show solve write

- 1 Research **has shown** that cycling can help patients overcome their illnesses.
- 2 The rabbit just in my garden one day last week.
- 3 With this promotion, I feel that I a turning point in my career.
- 4 Oh, no! My car
- 5 Quite early in the negotiations, they to lower the prices.
- 6 In 1788 he his last great work in Vienna.
- 7 There's not much more to do, now that we the main problem.
- 8 Throughout the summer of 1980 Malcolm to divide his time between London and New York.
- 9 When he was 13, his parents to the United States.

3.2 Suggest a verb that can complete both sentences in each pair. Use either the present perfect or the past simple. Use *h* to add any words outside the space. (B, E & F)

- 1 a The price of houses dramatically in recent years.
b Unemployment every year until 1985 and then started to fall.
- 2 a At his wedding he a green suit and red tie.
b These are the glasses I ever since I was 30.
- 3 a The company many setbacks in its 50-year history, but it is now flourishing.
b Few of the trees in our village the storms during the winter of 1991.
- 4 a This his home for over 20 years and he doesn't want to leave it.
b When I picked up the coffee I surprised to find it that it was cold.
- 5 a So far it's been so cold that we in the house all day.
b We with Mike and Sue last weekend.
- 6 a I last you in Beijing three years ago.
b I never anyone play so well in my whole life.

3.3 Find the following: (i) three sentences that are incorrect; (ii) three sentences with the present perfect which could also have the past simple (consider the difference in meaning); (iii) three sentences where only the present perfect is correct. (A–G)

- 1 Jane has agreed to lend us her car. (ii)
- 2 Do you know how many people have walked on the moon?
- 3 Phone for an ambulance. I think Keith's broken his arm.
- 4 In his twenties, Lawrence has spent many years travelling around Spain.
- 5 The Vikings have established a settlement at what is now York, in the north of England.
- 6 The house looks so much bigger now that we've painted the walls in brighter colours.
- 7 My brother has gone into town to buy some new shoes.
- 8 The Earth has been formed about 4,500 million years ago.
- 9 I've worked in Malaysia for three years.



Present perfect (I have done) and past simple (I did) (2)

A

We use the present perfect when we talk about something that happened in a period of time *up to the present*. We use the past simple to talk about something that happened at a *particular, finished* time in the past. Compare:

- Science **has made** many major advances this century. *and*
- Scientists **made** some fundamental discoveries in the 18th century.
- He puts to good use things that other people **have thrown** away. *and*
- I **threw** away most of my old books when I moved house.

When we report that someone has recently invented, produced, discovered or written something we use the present perfect. When we talk about something that was invented, etc. in the more distant past we use the past simple. Compare:

- Scientist **have discovered** that, all over the world, millions of frogs and toads are dying.
- It is often said that Hernán Cortés **'discovered'** Mexico in 1519.
- Two schoolchildren **have invented** a device for moving large objects up flights of stairs.
- Chinese craftsmen **invented** both paper and printing.

Sometimes it makes very little difference to the main sense of the sentence if we think of something happening in a period of time up to the present or at a particular, finished time in the past:

- The research is now complete and the experiment **was** (*or has been*) a success.
- Does it concern you that you **failed** (*or have failed*) the test?
- I'm sure I **read** (*or I have read*) somewhere that he died in a plane crash.

B

We can use either the present perfect or the past simple to talk about repeated actions or events. If we use the present perfect, we often suggest that the action or event *might* happen again.

Sometimes we emphasise this with phrases such as *so far* and *up to now* (see Unit 5). If we use the past simple, it suggests that it is finished and *won't* happen again. Compare:

- Timson **has made** 13 films and I think her latest is the best. *and*
- Timson **made** 13 films before she was tragically killed in a car accident.
- Lee **has represented** his country on many occasions, and hopes to go on to compete in the next Olympics. *and*
- Lee **represented** his country on many occasions, but was forced to retire after an injury.

C

We can use both the present perfect and the past simple to talk about *states*. We use the present perfect to talk about a state that existed in the past and still exists now, and we use the past simple if the state no longer exists. Compare:

- I **have known** him most of my working life. (I am still working) *and*
- I **knew** him when we were both working in Rome.
- We **have belonged** to the tennis club since we moved here. (We still belong to it.) *and*
- We **belonged** to the tennis club in the village we used to live in.

D

In news reports, you will often read or hear events introduced with the present perfect, and then the past simple is used to give the details:

● 'The film star Jim Cooper **has died** of cancer. He **was** 68 and **lived** in Texas...'

● 'The US space shuttle Atlantis **has returned** safely to earth. It **landed** in Florida this morning...'



● 'A teacher from Oslo **has become** the first woman to cross the Antarctic alone. It **took** her 42 days to make the crossing with her dog team...'

EXERCISES

4.1 Complete these sentences with the verb given. Choose the present perfect or past simple. (A)

- 1 According to yesterday's newspapers, astronomers in Australia a planet in a galaxy close to our own. (discover)
- 2 To help today's customers make a choice, a company in New York a video trolley – a supermarket trolley with a video screen to display advertisements and price information. (develop)
- 3 At the start of his career, Cousteau the aqualung, opening the oceans to explorers, scientists, and leisure divers. (invent)
- 4 He proudly told reporters that the company software to prevent the recent increase in computer crime. (produce)
- 5 John Grigg the comet now called Grigg-Skjellerup, at the beginning of the 20th century. (discover)

4.2 Complete the sentences with appropriate verbs. Use the same verb for each sentence in the pair. Use either the present perfect or the past simple. (B & C)

- 1 a A lot of people about the painting, and I always say it's not for sale.
b The police me several questions about my car before they let me go.
- 2 a Until she retired last month, she in the customer complaints department.
b Sullivan hard to change the rules and says that the campaign will go on.
- 3 a I skiing ever since I lived in Switzerland.
b She once the support of the majority of the Democratic Party.
- 4 a His father so many complaints about the noise that he told Chris to sell his drums.
b We over 50 letters of support in the last 10 days.
- 5 a *The Bible* more copies than any other book.
b When it became clear that we would be moving to Austria, we the house to my brother.
- 6 a I moving to London from the day I arrived. I'd love to go back to Rome.
b At first I inviting them to stay, but we soon became great friends.

4.3 Here are some parts of a newspaper article. Study the underlined verbs. Correct them if necessary, or put a ✓. (A–C)

CYCLE ROUTE SUCCESS IN BIRMINGHAM

New cycle routes (1) have been built in and around the centre of Birmingham and speed limits (2) have been reduced on selected roads...The scheme (3) was now in operation for a year and (4) has been hailed as a great success. Since the new speed limits (5) were introduced, the number of accidents in the area (6) fell dramatically...It (7) has taken only six months to draw up the plans and mark the routes. This (8) has been done in consultation with groups representing city cyclists...Jane Wills, a keen cyclist who works in the city centre, told us: 'When the new routes (9) have been introduced, I (10) have sold my car and I (11) bought a bike. I (12) cycled to work ever since. It's the best thing the council (13) did for cyclists and pedestrians in the time I've been living in Birmingham.'...The success of the scheme (14) has led to proposals for similar schemes in other cities.

Present perfect (I have done) and past simple (I did) (3): adverbs used with these tenses

A Some time adverbs that connect the past to the present are often used with the present perfect:

- Don't disturb Amy. She's *just gone* to sleep. (*not* ...she just went to sleep.)
- **Have you seen Robert lately?** (*not* Did you see...)

Other time adverbs like this include **already, since** (last week), **so far, still, up to now, yet**.

When we use time adverbs that talk about *finished* periods of time we use the past simple rather than the present perfect:

- Marie **died**, at the age of 86, *in 1964*. (*not* Marie has died...)

Other time adverbs like this include (a month) **ago, at** (3 o'clock), **last** (week, month), **on** (Monday), **once** (= at some time in the past), **then, yesterday**.

We often use **before, for, and recently** with the present perfect and also the past simple. For example:

...with present perfect	...with past simple
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing like this has happened before. • We've had the dishwasher <i>for</i> three years. (= we have still got it) • A new school has recently opened in New Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why didn't you ask me <i>before</i>? • We had the car <i>for</i> six years. (= we no longer have it) • I saw Dave <i>recently</i>.

B Time adverbs that refer to the present, such as **today, this morning/week/month**, can also be used with either the present perfect or past simple. If we see **today** etc. as a past, completed period of time, then we use the past simple; if we see **today**, etc. as a period including the present moment, then we use the present perfect. Compare:

- I **didn't** shave *today* (= the usual time has passed; suggests I will not shave today) *and*
- I **haven't** shaved *today*. (= today is not finished; I may shave later or may not)
- I **wrote** three letters *this morning*. (= the morning is over) *and*
- I've **written** three letters *this morning*. (= it is still morning)

C We use **since** to talk about a period that started at some point in the past and continues until the present time. This is why we often use **since** with the present perfect:

- **Since** 1990 I **have lived** in a small house near the coast.
- Tom **has been** ill *since* Christmas.

In a sentence which includes a *since*-clause, the usual pattern is for the *since*-clause to contain a past simple, and the main clause to contain a present perfect:

- **Since** Mr Hassan **became** president, both taxes and unemployment **have increased**.
- I **haven't** been able to play tennis *since* I **broke** my arm.

However, we can use a present perfect in the *since*-clause if the two situations described in the main and *since*-clause extend until the present:

- **Since** I've lived here, I **haven't** seen my neighbours.

D We use the present perfect with **ever** and **never** to emphasise that we are talking about the whole of a period of time up until the present:

- It's one of the most magnificent views I **have ever seen**. (= in my whole life)
- I've **never had** any problems with my car. (= at any time since I bought it)

We use the past simple with **ever** and **never** to talk about a completed period in the past:

- When he was young, he **never bothered** too much about his appearance.

EXERCISES

5.1 Put a ✓ or correct the sentences. (A)

- 1 Terry drove to Glasgow last week to visit his father.
- 2 I have known a woman once who had sixteen cats.
- 3 Ann Baker already did four radio interviews about her new book.
- 4 Julia felt hungry. Then she has remembered the salad in the fridge.
- 5 I'll introduce you to Dr Davies – or have you met her before?
- 6 We've had enormous problems recently with ants in the kitchen. We just can't get rid of them.
- 7 I have talked to her yesterday about doing the work.
- 8 They still live in the small house they have bought 30 years ago.
- 9 You have not yet explained clearly what you want me to do.
- 10 We lived in Newcastle for three years now and like it a lot.

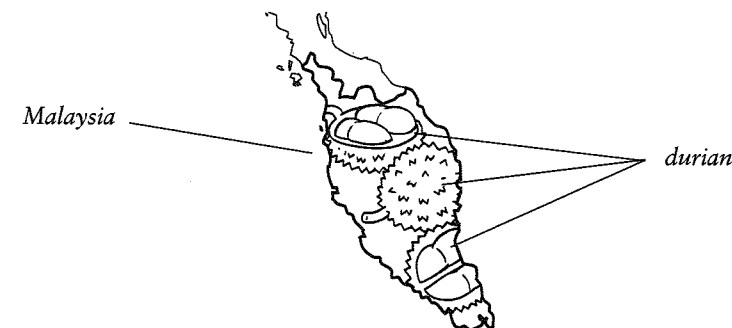
5.2 Complete these sentences with an appropriate verb. Use either the present perfect or past simple. (B & C)

- 1 Maria hasn't wanted to drive since she her car.
- 2 I really hard this morning. Another two shelves to put up and then I think I'll have lunch.
- 3 Since the eruption, all the villages on the slopes of the volcano have been evacuated.
- 4 So far this week there three burglaries in our street.
- 5 I a committee meeting since 1986, so I don't want to miss the one today.
- 6 It was so hot today that I shorts and a T-shirt at work.
- 7 A great deal since I last spoke to you.
- 8 We £200 on food this month already.
- 9 Since he the girl from the frozen pond, he has been on TV and in the newspapers almost every day.

5.3 Choose one of these verbs and write **Have you ever...** or **Did you ever...** at the beginning of these questions. (D)

be eat have hear learn meet talk think

- 1 Have you ever been in a cave?
- 2 durian (= a fruit) when you lived in Malaysia?



- 3 somebody really famous?
- 4 what it must be like to be a cat?
- 5 to play a musical instrument as a child?
- 6 to Michael when you worked in the same company?
- 7 a song called 'Close to the Edge'?
- 8 a pet when you were young?

Past continuous (I was doing) and past simple (I did)

A To talk about a temporary situation that existed at or around a particular time in the past, we use the past continuous:

- At the time of the robbery, they **were staying** with my parents.
- My head **was aching** again, so I went home.

Compare the use of the past continuous and the past simple in these sentences:

- She **was shaking** with anger as she **left** the hotel.
- When he realised I **was looking** at him, he **turned** away.
- Erika **dropped** her bag while she **was getting** into her car.

We often use the past simple to talk about a completed past event and the past continuous to describe the situation that existed at the time. The completed event might have interrupted the situation, or just occurred while the situation or event was in progress.

We don't normally use the past continuous with certain verbs describing states (see Unit 2A):

- This house **belonged** to the King of Sweden. (*not ...was belonging to...*)

B When we talk about two past actions or events that went on over the same period of time, we can often use the past continuous for both:

- Sally **was reading** to the children while Kevin **was washing up**.
- Mario **was working** in a restaurant when I **was living** in London.



However, we can often use the past simple to express a similar meaning:

- Mario **worked** in a restaurant while he **lived** in London. (*or ...was living in London.*)

When we talk about two or more past completed events that follow each other, we use the past simple for both. The first may have caused the second:

- She **got up** when the alarm clock **went off**.
- He **jumped** out of bed and ran to see who the parcel was for.

C When we talk about a *permanent* or long-term situation that existed in the past, we use the past simple rather than the past continuous:

- When I was a child I **played** the violin. (*not ...I was playing...*)

However, if the situation was *temporary*, we can also use the past continuous. Compare:

- I **was working** in a car factory during the summer of 1976. (*or I worked...*) *and*
- He **worked** hard all his life. (*not He was working...*)

D We use the past simple rather than the past continuous when we are talking about repeated actions or events in the past:

- We **visited** Spain three times last year. (*not We were visiting...*)
- I **went** past her house every day. (*not I was going...*)
- She **slept** very badly whenever she stayed with her grandparents. (*not ...was sleeping...*)

However, the past continuous can also be used when we want to emphasise that the repeated actions only went on for a limited and temporary period of past time (See also Unit 2C.):

- When Carlo was in hospital, we **were visiting** him twice a day. (*or ...we visited...*)
- To get fit for the race, I **was going** to the sports centre every day. (*or ...I went...*)

We use the past continuous when the repeated actions or events provide a longer background to something else that happened (see A):

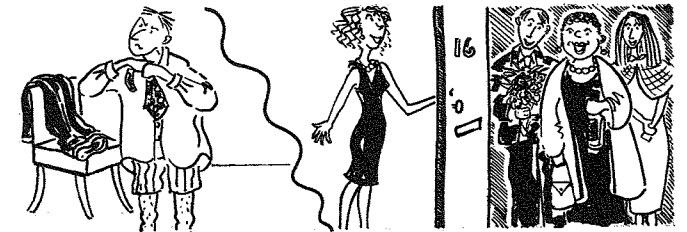
- During the time I started to get chest pains, I **was playing** tennis a lot.

EXERCISES

6.1 Complete the sentences using these pairs of verbs. Use the past simple in one space and the past continuous in the other. (A & B)

arrive/get go/get met/work look/slip wait/order ski/break

- 1 Just as I **was getting** into the bath the fire alarm **went** off.
- 2 Helen her leg while she in Switzerland.
- 3 We when I in a music shop.
- 4 When his mother in the other direction Steve away quietly.
- 5 I a drink while I for Pam to arrive.
- 6 Our guests were early.
They as I changed.



This time, use the same tense in both spaces. (B)

close/sit come/put not concentrate/think shut/start take/place write/drive

- 7 She the door and down quickly.
- 8 I the windows as soon as it to rain.
- 9 I'm sorry, I I about Jim.
- 10 It was an amazing coincidence. Just as I to Anne, she to my house to come and see me.
- 11 When the taxi I my suitcase on the back seat.
- 12 He the cake out of the oven and it carefully on the table.

6.2 Look at the past continuous verbs you wrote in 6.1: 1–6. Which of these could also be in the past simple? What difference in meaning, if any, would there be? (A, B & C)

6.3 Complete the sentences with one of these verbs: **be, enjoy, have, live**. Use the same verb for each sentence in the pair. In one, you can use only the past simple; in the other you can use either the past simple or the past continuous. (C)

- 1 a It was now getting late, and my eyes trouble focusing on the birds in the disappearing light.
b I trouble with that car the whole of the time I owned it.
- 2 a As a historian, I'm interested in how people in the past.
b During that hard winter, people by selling what few remaining possessions they had.
- 3 a She very good at talking to children in a way that kept them entertained.
b Before the party, the children got very excited and naughty.
- 4 a He learning Japanese until the class had a new teacher.
b Even when he was young, Jonathan learning languages.

6.4 Correct the sentences if necessary or put a ✓. (D)

- 1 Whenever I called in on Sam, he talked on the phone.
- 2 When I lived in Paris, I was spending three hours a day travelling to and from work.
- 3 Peterson was winning the tournament four times before he retired.
- 4 We were having to play netball twice a week when I went to school.
- 5 The weather was so good last summer that we went to the beach most weekends.

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

A We use the present perfect continuous to talk about a situation or activity that started in the past and has been in progress for a period until now. Sometimes we use the present perfect continuous with expressions that indicate the time period (e.g. with *since* and *for*):

- I've been meaning to phone Jack *since I heard he was back in the country*.
- The competition **has been running** *every year since 1980*.
- She's been living in New Zealand *for over a year now*.
- People **have been saying** *for ages* that the building should be pulled down.

Without such an expression, the present perfect continuous refers to a recent situation or activity and focuses on its present results:

- Look! It's been snowing.
- 'You're looking well.' 'I've been playing a lot of squash to lose weight.'
- 'Haven't seen anything of Rod for a while.' 'No, he's been working in Germany.'

The situation or activity may still be going on, or it may just have stopped. Compare:

- We've been discussing the proposals for a number of years. (= still going on) *and*
- Your eyes are red – have you been crying? (= recently stopped)

B We often use the present perfect continuous when we ask questions with *How long...?* and when we say how long something has been in progress:

- *How long have you been waiting for me?*
- *How long have they been living next door to you?*
- *For more than two years I've been trying to get permission to extend my house.*
- Unemployment **has been rising** steadily *since the huge increase in oil prices*.

We can use the present perfect continuous or a present tense (the present simple or the present continuous) when we talk about a situation or activity that started in the past and is still happening now or has just stopped. However, we use the present perfect continuous when we are talking about *how long* the action or event has been going on. Compare:

- I see Tom most weekends. *and*
- I've been seeing a lot of Tom since he moved into the flat upstairs. (*not* I see...)
- It's raining. *and*
- It's been raining heavily all night. (*not* It's raining...)

For the difference between the present perfect and present perfect continuous in sentences like this, see Unit 8.

C When we talk about situations or actions that went on over a past period of time but finished at a particular point in time before now, we don't use the present perfect continuous:

- I was reading until midnight last night. (*not* I have been reading...)
- She had been living in Spain before her family moved to Brazil. (*not* She has been living...)
- He put off the decision for as long as possible, but eventually he made up his mind and bought the car. (*not* He has been putting off...)

D We generally avoid the present perfect continuous with verbs that describe states (see Unit 2A).

EXERCISES

7.1 Complete the sentences with the present perfect continuous form of an appropriate verb. (A)

- 1 The situation continues to be serious, and troops their lives to rescue people from the floods.
- 2 Mary hasn't been at work for a while. She her husband get over a serious illness.
- 3 I very hard for this exam. I hope I do well.
- 4 Because the children are older, we of moving to a bigger house.
- 5 I this suitcase around with me all day, and it's really heavy.
- 6 For several years now, Glasgow citywide festivals to celebrate the cultures of other countries. This year the focus is on Sweden.

7.2 Rewrite each sentence using the present perfect continuous form of an appropriate verb and *for* or *since*. If necessary, look at the verbs below to help you. (A)

- 1 Henry moved to California three years ago.
Henry has been living in California for three years.
- 2 The project to send astronauts to Mars began in 1991.
.....
- 3 Campbell began a life sentence for murder in 1992.
.....
- 4 Colin James took over as head of the company six months ago.
.....
- 5 Graham's knee injury began at the US Open earlier this year.
.....
- 6 Local authorities began to invest heavily in new computer systems at the beginning of the 1990s.
.....

go on invest ~~live~~ run serve suffer

7.3 Underline the correct alternative. (B)

- 1 Bullfighting *is going on / has been going on* in Spain for centuries.
- 2 I *always find / have always been finding* it difficult to get up on winter mornings.
- 3 I *have been wanting / want* to meet you since I saw your concert.
- 4 Over the last six months I *ve been learning / I'm learning* how to play the flute.
- 5 The *phone's been ringing / phone's ringing*. Can you answer it.
- 6 How long *have you learned / have you been learning* Swahili?
- 7 During the last few years the company *has been working / works* hard to modernise its image.

7.4 If the underlined verbs are correct, put a ✓. If they are wrong, correct them using either the past continuous or the present perfect continuous as appropriate. (C)

- 1 I was expecting the book to end happily, but in fact it was really sad. ✓
- 2 The opposition groups were fighting the government on this issue for years, but so far without success.
- 3 The protesters have been campaigning for some months now to prevent the new road being built.
- 4 He has been looking nervous until I told him to sit down and relax.
- 5 Work to repair the bridge has been continuing throughout this summer.
- 6 Before she retrained as a computer programmer she has been working as a secretary.
- 7 I was receiving the magazine for some time and enjoy reading it immensely.
- 8 I was turning to leave when she said, 'Maybe you'd like to stay for dinner.'

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing) and present perfect (I have done)

A

Compare the use of the present perfect continuous and the present perfect:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The guests have been arriving since about 6 o'clock. • Since the operation two months ago, Joe has been learning to walk again. He can already take two or three steps unaided. • She's been driving for 3 years now. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark and Helena have arrived – they're in the sitting room. • I have learnt a lot about painting from Paul. • We have driven all the way here without a break.
--	---

We use both the present perfect continuous and the present perfect to talk about something that started in the past and which affects the situation that exists now. The difference is that the present perfect continuous focuses on the *activity* or *event* which may or may not be finished. The present perfect, however, focuses on the *effect* of the activity or event, or the fact that something has been *achieved*.

Sometimes the difference between them is simply one of emphasis (see also Unit 10B):

- I've **been following** their discussions with great interest. (emphasises the activity; that is, my following their discussions)
- I've **followed** their discussions with great interest. (emphasises the result; I may now react to what was said or decided)

B

We can use either the present perfect continuous or the present perfect to talk about activities or events that are repeated again and again until now:

- Joseph **has been kicking** a football against the wall all afternoon. (or ...has kicked...)
- The press **has been calling** for her resignation for several weeks. (or ...has called...)

However, if we mention the number of times the activity or event was repeated, we use the present perfect rather than the present perfect continuous:

- I've **bumped into** Susan 3 times this week.
- He **has played** for the national team in 65 matches so far.

C

We use the present perfect rather than the present perfect continuous when we talk about long-lasting or permanent situations, or when we want to emphasise that we are talking about the *whole* of a period of time until the present (see also Unit 5D):

- I **have always admired** Chester's work.
- They are the most delicious oranges I've ever eaten.

When we talk about more temporary situations we can often use either the present perfect continuous or the present perfect:

- 'Where's Dr Owen's office?' 'Sorry, I don't know. I've **only worked / I've only been working** here for a couple of days.'

D

When we want to emphasise that a situation has changed over a period of time up to now, and may continue to change, we prefer the present perfect continuous to the present perfect:

- The pollution problem **has been getting** worse over the last decade.
- Sales **have been increasing** for some time.

However, if we talk about a specific change over a period of time which ends now, particularly to focus on the *result* of this change (see A), we use the present perfect:

- Prices **have decreased** by 7%. (= in a period up to now)
- The population **has grown** from 35 million in 1950 to 42 million today.

EXERCISES

8.1 Complete the sentences with these verbs, using the same one for each sentence in the pair. Use the present perfect in one sentence and the present perfect continuous in the other. (A)

claim disappear give move stop

- a An important file from my office.

b Plants and vegetables from my garden since we had new neighbours.
- a Dr Fletcher the same lecture to students for the last ten years.

b Mr Goldman nearly a million pounds to the charity this year.
- a With their win yesterday, Italy into second place in the table.

b As house prices in the cities have risen, people into the countryside.
- a For years he that he is related to the royal family.

b The earthquake over 5000 lives.
- a All day, the police motorists to question them about the accident.

b Good, the noise I can start concentrating on my work again.

8.2 Choose the most appropriate sentence ending. (B)

1 I've swum...	a and I feel exhausted.
2 I've been swimming...	b thirty lengths of the pool.
3 They have asked me...	a to visit them for ages, but I've never had the time.
4 They have been asking me...	b to join the company on a number of occasions.
5 I have visited Vienna...	a three or four times before.
6 I've been visiting Vienna...	b since 1990 and I've always felt very safe here.
7 We've stayed...	a at this hotel a couple of times before.
8 We've been staying...	b at a small hotel near the sea.

8.3 Complete these sentences using the verb given. If possible, use the present perfect continuous; if not, use the present perfect. Use *h* to add any words outside the space. (C)

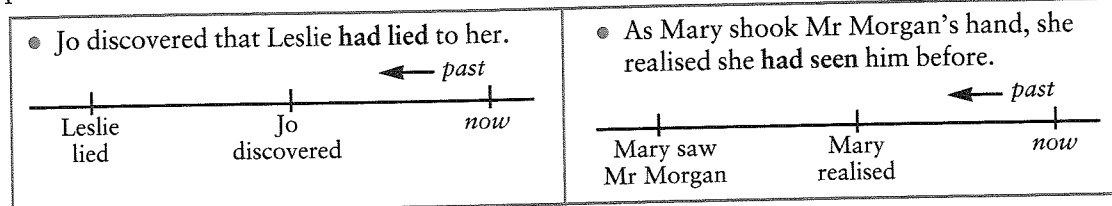
- Since they were very young, the children (enjoy) travelling by plane.
- It (snow) heavily since this morning.
- I'm pleased to say that the team (play) well all season.
- I never (understand) why we have to pay so much tax.
- I (not read) any of Dickens' novels.
- In recent years, Brazilian companies (put) a lot of money into developing advanced technology.

8.4 Complete the sentences to describe the information in the graph. Use the verb given. (D)

<p>1 Inflation since (fall)</p>	<p>2 Industrial output from in to today. (grow)</p>
<p>3 The number of deaths from lung cancer since (rise)</p>	<p>4 Production of wool by since (decline)</p>

Past perfect (I had done) and past simple (I did)

A We use the past perfect to talk about a past situation or activity that took place before another past situation or activity, or before a particular time in the past:



We use the past simple rather than the past perfect when we simply talk about a single activity or event in the past:

- I **handed** the letter to him.
- Sorry we're late, we **took** the wrong turning.

Notice the difference in meaning of these sentences with the past perfect and past simple:

- When he stopped laughing, everyone **left**. (= they left after he stopped laughing)
- When he stopped laughing, everyone **had left**. (= they left before he stopped laughing)
- I **got up** when the phone rang. (= the phone rang and then I got up)
- I **had gone** to bed when the phone rang. (= I went to bed and then the phone rang)

B When we give an account of a sequence of past events, we usually put these events in chronological order with the past simple. If we want to refer to an event out of order – that is, it happened before the last event we have talked about – we use the present perfect.

Study the use of the past perfect and past simple in this text:

Don José was a wealthy Cuban landowner who **emigrated** to Mexico in 1959. The agricultural reforms **had begun** a few months earlier. He **moved** again in 1965 and made his home in the United States. He **had made** his fortune in growing sugar cane, and he brought his expertise to his new home.

Order of events	1 made fortune	2 reforms began
	3 emigrated to Mexico	4 moved to US
Order of account	1 emigrated to Mexico	2 reforms had begun (out of order)
	3 moved to US	4 had made fortune (out of order)

C We use the past perfect when we say what we wanted or hoped (etc.) to do, but didn't:

- I **had wanted** to visit the gallery before I left Florence, but it's closed on Sundays.
- Bill **had hoped** to retire at 60, but they persuaded him to stay on for a few more years.

Other verbs used like this include expect (to), mean (to), think (about + -ing).

D When we use a time expression (e.g. after, as soon as, before, by the time (that), when) to say that one event happened after another, we use either the past simple or past perfect for the event that happened first and the past simple for the event that happened second:

- After Ivan (had) finished reading, he put out the light.
 - When Carol (had) brushed her teeth, she went to bed.
- But to emphasise that the second event is the result of the first, we prefer the past simple for both:
- She became famous after she appeared on the TV programme.
 - When the teacher came in, all the children stood up.

With already and just (= a very short time before) we use the past perfect, not the past simple:

- The film **had already begun** by the time we got to the cinema.
- She **had just stepped** into her office when the telephone rang.

Present perfect and past simple ⇒ UNITS 3-5 Past continuous and past simple ⇒ UNIT 6
Past perfect continuous and past perfect ⇒ UNIT 10 Adverbials of time ⇒ UNITS 94, 95

EXERCISES

9.1 Underline the correct answer. (A)

- Alice felt very pleased with herself. She *had found / found* what she was looking for.
- 'Where are we?' *had asked / asked* Martha.
- By the time I got back to the bathroom, the bath *had overflowed / overflowed*.
- She walked into the station only to find that the train *had left / left*.
- I was just about to leave when I *had remembered / remembered* my briefcase.
- My sister told me that Joe *had died / died*.
- He *had looked / looked* at his watch again and began to walk even faster.
- In a surprise move, the Prime Minister *had resigned / resigned* last night.

9.2 These things happened in the order given in brackets (e.g. in 1, most people went home and, sometime after that, I got to the party). Write sentences using this information beginning with the words given. Use either the past simple or the past perfect. (A)

- (most people went home / I got to the party) **By the time...**
- (Glen opened the book / some pages fell out) **When...**
- (the fox disappeared / we went back to look for it) **When...**
- (she picked up her bag / the handle broke) **When...**

9.3 Expand one of these sets of notes using the past perfect to begin each sentence. (C)

She / not expect / see David again I / hope for / relaxing day I / mean / to call / parents
He / think about / fly / to Rome She / want to / leave / meeting early

- He had thought about flying to Rome, but all the flights were booked up.
-, but I couldn't find a phone box.
-, so she was delighted when they met at the conference.
-, but she felt that she ought to stay to find out what was decided.
-, but instead my cousin and her five children arrived unexpectedly.

9.4 Use these pairs of verbs to complete the sentences. Choose the past perfect where possible; otherwise, use the past simple. (D)

turn/caught come/start eat/pick check/go type/give collapse/phone

- After Michael the letter, he it to Kay to sign.
- When she into the hall, everyone cheering.
- When Jenny that the children were asleep, she out to the concert.
- As soon as I the ignition key, the engine fire.
- When Norma, I for an ambulance.
- After they all the food, they up their bags and left.

9.5 Here is an extract from a newspaper article about a missing boy (Roy) and his father (Neil). Decide why the past perfect was used in each case. (B)

...Neil said that Roy, who used to enjoy riding with him on his bike, followed him as he set off. He told the child to go back to his mother, and rode away. Meanwhile, Roy's mother thought that Roy had gone with Neil; Neil believed Roy had stayed behind. It was only some hours later, when Neil returned, that they realised Roy had vanished....

Past perfect continuous (I had been doing) and past perfect (I had done)

A

Study these sentences with the past perfect continuous:

- They **had been expecting** the news for some time.
- She **had been wearing** high-heeled shoes, and her feet hurt.
- Mason was arrested, even though he **hadn't been doing** anything illegal.

We use the past perfect continuous when we talk about a situation or activity that happened over a period up to a particular past time, or until shortly before it.

B

Compare how the past perfect continuous and the past perfect are used:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She had been suffering from flu when she was interviewed. • I'd been finishing some work in the garden and hadn't seen Sue come home. • Bill had been saving since Christmas to buy a new bike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She had suffered from asthma when she was very young. • I'd finished all my work, so I had very little to do. • Bill had saved enough money to buy the bike he wanted.
--	---

⚡ We use the past perfect continuous when we talk about the *continuity* or *duration* of a situation or activity, and the past perfect to talk about the *completion* of a situation or activity or its *effects*.

Sometimes the difference between them is simply one of emphasis (see also Unit 8A):

- I'd **been working hard**, so I felt that I deserved a holiday. (emphasises the activity)
- I'd **worked hard**, and the report was now finished. (emphasises the result)

C

If we talk about *how long* something went on up to a particular past time, we prefer the past perfect continuous. If we talk about *how many* times something happened in a period up to a particular past time, we use the past perfect:

- They **had been travelling** for about 36 hours. (*rather than* They had travelled...)
- We **had been looking** at the painting for about ten minutes before we realised who the artist was. (*rather than* We had looked...)
- I'd **heard** the symphony many times before. (*not* I'd been hearing...)
- The teacher **had let** them get away with their bad behaviour once too often. (*not* ...had been letting them...)

However, some verbs that describe *states* (see Unit 2A) are not often used with continuous tenses, and we use the past perfect with these even when we are talking about how long something went on up to a particular past time:

- I **had always believed** that it would be easy to get a job. (*not* I had always been believing...)
- We **had owned** the car for 6 months before we discovered it was stolen. (*not* We had been owning...)

D

Compare the use of the past perfect continuous and past continuous:

- When we met Simon and Pat, they **had been riding**. (= we met after they had finished)
- When we met Simon and Pat, they **were riding**. (= we met while they were riding)
- When I got home, water **had been leaking** through the roof. (= it was no longer leaking when I got there)
- When I got home, water **was leaking** through the roof. (= it was leaking when I got there)

EXERCISES

10.1 Complete these sentences using one of the following. Use the past perfect continuous. (You will need to use a negative verb form in some cases.) (A)

pay / bills stay / friends smoke / cigar try / to steal / car attend / classes
cycle / quite fast

- 1 She returned to the house where she *had been staying with friends*.....
- 2 Sue until she reached the hill.
- 3 By the smell in the room and his guilty expression I could tell that Alex
- 4 The principal called Carmen into his office because she
- 5 I had to give Peter some money when I found out that he
- 6 He told the police that he He said he thought it belonged to his brother.

10.2 Complete the sentences with appropriate verbs, using the same one for each sentence in the pair. Use the past perfect continuous if it is possible; if not, use the past perfect. (B)

- 1 a She took a bottle from the bag she all the way from home.
b The avalanche them 500 metres down the mountain but no-one was hurt.
- 2 a We for visas well before our departure date, but still hadn't heard anything by the day we were due to leave.
b She for jobs, without success, since leaving university.
- 3 a He all the way from New York to see me.
b When the plane was diverted, it from London to Frankfurt.
- 4 a She for the same company since she qualified.
b He finally his way up from the shop floor to a management position.

Look again at the sentences where you have used the past perfect continuous. In which is the past perfect also possible? (Also, study Unit 9 and decide when you could use the past simple instead of the past perfect in these sentences.)

10.3 Choose the past perfect continuous form of the verb if appropriate. If not, use the past perfect. (C)

- 1 Andrew died last week. He from cancer for some time. (suffer)
- 2 I the view many times before, but it never failed to impress me. (see)
- 3 The opposing sides in the war since the president was overthrown. (fight)
- 4 I Megan since we were at school together. (know)
- 5 For years we about buying new carpets, and last weekend we finally went out and ordered some. (talk)
- 6 My car was once again in the garage for repairs. This was the third time it since I got it. (break down)
- 7 Before now we on where to go on holiday. (always agree)

10.4 Can you explain the difference between these pairs of sentences? (B & D)

- 1 a When I last went to Moscow, they had renovated St Basil's Cathedral.
b When I last went to Moscow, they had been renovating St Basil's Cathedral.
- 2 a Although she tried to hide her face, I could see that Clara was crying.
b Although she tried to hide her face, I could see that Clara had been crying.



- 16.9 'When did you last hear Don?' 'He phoned me just this morning. He's coming to Bristol next week, so we agreed a time and place to meet.'
 A from...on B about...on C from...with D of...to
- 16.10 'John has looked tired recently, and I've started to wonder his health.' 'You're right. And he doesn't seem to care the effect smoking has on him.'
 A at...for B about...for C about...about D at...about
- 16.11 She tried to
 A talk me the plan out of B talk out of me the plan
 C talk me out of the plan D talk out me of the plan

Organising information

- 17.1 people trying to get into the football stadium.
 A There were too much B There were too many
 C It was too many D There was too many
- 17.2 to celebrate his 75th birthday.
 A It was decided B It was accepted C It was determined
 D It was agreed
- 17.3 I you can swim so well and I can't.
 A hate B hate it that C hate that D hate it
- 17.4 Dave lost his job and was short of money, so his flat and move in with his brother.
 A that he did was to sell B what he did was to sell
 C what he did sold D what he did was sell
- 17.5 resigned, we would have been forced to sack him.
 A Had he not B Hadn't he C He had not D He not had
- 17.6 that Marie was able to retire at the age of 50.
 A So successful her business was, B So successful was her business,
 C Her business was so successful D So was her successful business,

112

113

114

115,

116, 64

116

117

118

119

120

Key to exercises

UNIT 1

1.1
Some possible verbs are given.

- 2 collects
- 3 is (or are) currently offering/selling
- 4 locks/shuts
- 5 are leaving/deserting
- 6 work
- 7 is working
- 8 speaks
- 9 I'm reading/writing
- 10 are staying

1.2

- 2 I'm saying...are doing... I'm telling...
- 3 promise...suggest...hope
- 4 are negotiating...are threatening...are even talking
- 5 apologise...recommend...warn

1.3

- 1 cook *or* are (normally) cooking. 'Cook' implies that we start cooking at 6.00; 'are cooking' implies that we are cooking *around* this time.
- 2 are phoning. More likely than 'phone' as this seems to be a temporary situation.
- 3 sees. More likely than 'is seeing' as 'most weekends' suggests a long-lasting situation.
- 4 get up *or* are getting up. 'Get up' implies that 7.00 is the time at which we get up (e.g. that the alarm clock goes off); 'are getting up' implies that we are in the process of getting up *around* that time.
- 5 go *or* am going. 'Go' implies a regular, possibly permanent, arrangement (perhaps I need to do this regular exercise to prevent weight gain); 'am going' implies a more temporary arrangement (perhaps once I have lost weight I will stop swimming in the evening).

UNIT 2

2.1
Some possible verbs are given.

- 1 a is costing ('at the moment' emphasises that this is a temporary situation);

- b costs
- 2 a love/enjoy; b am loving/enjoying
- 3 a disagree; b are disagreeing ('disagree' is also possible)
- 4 a are preferring ('prefer' is also possible); b prefers
- 5 a is having; b has
- 6 a owns; b are owning ('own' is also possible)

2.2

- 1 passes...shoots...are attacking
- 2 comes...is waiting...says
- 3 is cooking...chop up...put

2.3

- 2 You're forever asking me for money.
- 3 You're constantly criticising my driving.
- 4 You're continually changing your mind.
- 5 You're forever moaning about (your) work.

2.4

Example answers:

I understand that the health service is going to get more money.

It says here that scientists have found the brightest star.

I gather Iran's been hit by an earthquake again.

UNIT 3

3.1

- 2 appeared
- 3 have reached
- 4 has disappeared
- 5 agreed
- 6 wrote
- 7 have solved
- 8 continued
- 9 moved

3.2

Most likely verbs are suggested.

- 1 a has risen; b rose
- 2 a wore; b have worn
- 3 a has survived; b survived
- 4 a has been; b was
- 5 a have stayed; b stayed
- 6 a saw; b have never seen

3.3

- 1 (ii) 'has agreed' implies that this is something that happened recently

- 2 (iii)
- 3 (iii)
- 4 (i)
- 5 (i)
- 6 (iii)
- 7 (ii) 'has gone' implies that he is still in town
- 8 (i)
- 9 (ii) 'have worked' implies that I'm still working there

UNIT 4

4.1

- 1 have discovered
- 2 has (or have) developed
- 3 invented
- 4 has (or have) produced
- 5 discovered

4.2

Most likely verbs are given.

- 1 a have asked; b asked
- 2 a worked; b has worked
- 3 a have enjoyed; b enjoyed
- 4 a received; b have received
- 5 a has sold; b sold
- 6 a have regretted; b regretted

4.3

- 1 ✓
- 2 ✓
- 3 has now been
- 4 ✓
- 5 ✓
- 6 has fallen
- 7 took
- 8 was done
- 9 were introduced
- 10 sold
- 11 ✓
- 12 have cycled
- 13 have (or has) done
- 14 ✓

UNIT 5

5.1

- 1 ✓
- 2 knew
- 3 has already done
- 4 remembered
- 5 ✓ ('did you meet her before' is also possible. Present perfect simple implies 'at any time up to now; past simple implies 'on another particular occasion')

- 6 ✓
7 talked
8 bought
9 ✓
10 have lived

5.2

The most likely verbs are given.

- 1 crashed
2 have worked
3 started
4 have been
5 haven't missed
6 wore
7 has happened
8 have spent
9 rescued

5.3

- 2 Did you ever eat (a)
3 Have you ever met
4 Have you ever thought
5 Did you ever learn
6 Did you ever talk
7 Have you ever heard
8 Did you ever have

UNIT 6**6.1**

- 2 broke...was skiing
3 met...was working
4 was looking...slipped
5 ordered...was waiting
6 arrived...was getting
7 closed...sat
8 shut...started
9 wasn't concentrating...was thinking
10 was writing...was driving
11 came...put
12 took...place

6.2

The past simple could be used instead of the present continuous in 2, 3 and 5 with a similar meaning.

In 1, the past simple implies that I was already in the bath when the fire alarm went off; the past continuous implies that I was in the process of getting in – I wasn't in yet.

In 4, the past simple suggests two actions that followed each other – his mother looked away and then Steve slipped away; the past continuous implies that she was looking away for a longer period, and during this time Steve slipped away.

In 6, the past simple is unlikely to replace the past continuous.

6.3

- 1 a were having *or* had; b had
2 a lived; b were living *or* lived
3 a was; b were being *or* were
4 a was enjoying *or* enjoyed; b enjoyed

6.4

- 1 ...was talking...
2 ✓ ('I spent' is also possible)
3 ...won...
4 ...had to...
5 ✓ ('were going to the beach' is also possible)

UNIT 7**7.1**

Most likely verbs are given.

- 1 have been risking
2 has been helping
3 have been preparing/working/ revising
4 have been thinking
5 have been carrying
6 has been holding/organising

7.2

- 2 The project to send astronauts to Mars has been going on since 1991.
3 Campbell has been serving a life sentence for murder since 1992.
4 Colin James has been running the company for six months.
5 Graham has been suffering from a knee injury since the US Open earlier this year.
6 Local authorities have been investing heavily in new computer systems since the beginning of the 1990s. (Note the preposition 'in' after 'heavily'.)

7.3

- 1 has been going on
2 always find

- 3 have been wanting
4 I've been learning
5 phone's ringing
6 have you been learning
7 has been working

7.4

- 2 have been fighting
3 ✓
4 was looking
5 ✓
6 was working
7 have been receiving
8 ✓

UNIT 8**8.1**

- 1 a has disappeared; b have been disappearing ('have disappeared' is also possible)
2 a has been giving ('has given' is also possible); b has given
3 a have ('has' is also possible, but less likely) moved; b have been moving ('have moved' is also possible)
4 a has been claiming ('has claimed' is also possible); b has claimed
5 a have been stopping ('have stopped' is also possible); b has stopped

8.2

- 1b; 2a 3b; 4a 5a; 6b 7a; 8b

8.3

- 1 have enjoyed
2 has been snowing ('has snowed' is also possible)
3 have ('has' is also possible, but less likely) been playing ('have *or* has played' is also possible)
4 have never understood. (Note the word order: 'have' comes before 'never')
5 haven't read
6 have been putting ('have put' is also possible)

8.4

- 1 Inflation has been falling since 1990. ('has fallen' is also possible)
2 Industrial output has grown from \$2 billion in 1945 to \$6 billion today.
3 The number of deaths from lung cancer has been rising since 1950.

- 4 Production of wool has declined by a million tonnes since 1985.

UNIT 9**9.1**

- 1 had found
2 asked
3 had overflowed
4 had left
5 remembered
6 had died
7 looked
8 resigned

9.2

- 1 By the time I got to the party, most people had gone home.
2 When Glen opened the book, some pages fell out.
3 When we went back to look for the fox, it had disappeared.
4 When she picked up her bag, the handle broke.

9.3

- 2 I had meant to call my parents
3 She hadn't expected to see David again
4 She had wanted to leave the meeting early
5 I had hoped for a relaxing day

9.4

- 1 had typed ('typed' is also possible)...gave
2 came...started
3 had checked...went
4 turned...caught
5 collapsed...phoned
6 had eaten ('ate' is also possible)...picked

9.5

order of event

Roy went with Neil – Roy's mother thought...
Roy stayed behind – Neil believed...
Roy vanished – they realised...

order of account

Roy's mother thought... – Roy went with Neil
(→ Roy had gone with Neil)
Neil believed... – Roy stayed behind
(→ Roy had stayed behind)
They realised... – Roy vanished
(→ Roy had vanished)

UNIT 10**10.1**

- 2 had been cycling quite fast
3 had been smoking a cigar (*or* ... smoking cigars)
4 hadn't been attending classes
5 hadn't been paying his bills
6 hadn't been trying to steal the car

10.2

Suggested verbs are given.

- 1 a had been carrying ('had carried' is also possible); b had carried
2 a had applied; b had been applying ('had applied' is also possible)
3 a had flown; b had been flying
4 a had been working ('had worked' is also possible); b had finally worked
(The past simple could be used in 1b, 2a, 3a, and 4b.)

10.3

- 1 had been suffering ('had suffered' is also possible)
2 had seen
3 had been fighting ('had fought' is also possible)
4 had known
5 had been talking ('had talked' is also possible)
6 had broken down
7 we had always agreed (Notice the word order here: 'had' comes before 'always')

10.4

- 1 a They finished renovating the cathedral before I went to Moscow. b They were still renovating the cathedral when I went to Moscow.
2 a Clara was still crying. b Clara was no longer crying.

UNIT 11**11.1**

The most likely verbs are given.

- 1 's going to explode. (B: prediction – evidence)
2 's going to retire (C: reporting a previous decision)
3 'll walk (C: 'will' is more likely here if this is a decision made at the moment of speaking; if the decision was made some time before speaking, 'going to' would be used)
4 will enter (B: prediction – opinion)
5 'll see (C: spontaneous decision)
6 'm going to paint (C: intention or a previous decision)
7 'm going to be sick! (B: prediction – evidence)
8 will re-open (C: intention – formal written style. Notice that in an informal spoken style we would prefer 'going to'. 'Will' is also preferred because a previous detailed arrangement is involved.)
9 'll have (B: prediction – opinion)
10 're going to eat. (C: a previous decision)
11 will leave (C: intention – formal style)
12 's going to collapse. (B: prediction – evidence)
13 're going to increase (C: reporting a previous decision)
14 'll show (C: spontaneous decision)
15 'll phone (C: spontaneous decision)

3 'll walk (C: 'will' is more likely here if this is a decision made at the moment of speaking; if the decision was made some time before speaking, 'going to' would be used)

4 will enter (B: prediction – opinion)

5 'll see (C: spontaneous decision)

6 'm going to paint (C: intention or a previous decision)

7 'm going to be sick! (B: prediction – evidence)

8 will re-open (C: intention – formal written style. Notice that in an informal spoken style we would prefer 'going to'. 'Will' is also preferred because a previous detailed arrangement is involved.)

9 'll have (B: prediction – opinion)

10 're going to eat. (C: a previous decision)

11 will leave (C: intention – formal style)

12 's going to collapse. (B: prediction – evidence)

13 're going to increase (C: reporting a previous decision)

14 'll show (C: spontaneous decision)

15 'll phone (C: spontaneous decision)

11.2

2 I'll / I'm going to tell

3 we'll / we're going to miss

4 I'll give

5 you'll / you're going to catch

6 he'll / he's going to die.

7 will drive

8 you'll be (made)

11.3

1 will is more likely here (B: prediction – opinion)

2 ✓ (will or 'll are also possible)

3 won't

4 will or 'll

5 ✓ (will or 'll are also possible)

6 're going to is more likely here (C: reporting a previous decision)

7 'll (C: spontaneous decision)

8 ✓