

Advanced Language Practice

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Advanced Language Practice

Help

On every page you can see some buttons, that will help you to navigate and do exercises.

Navigation buttons:

- back - go to the previous page;
- next - go to the next page;
- last unit - go to the previous unit;
- next unit - go to the next unit;
- explanation/exercises - go to the explanations/exercises of the unit;
- contents - go to the contents (from which you can go to the unit you wish);
- exit - exit the document;
- question - go to this help text.

Buttons in exercises:

- check - check whether your answers are correct. >>>>>

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Help

>>>>> You can do exercises with radio buttons, check buttons and text fields. Read the task attentively whether you can choose one or to variants.

Filling in text fields, don't write full-length of such words as "do not", "did not", "is not", "he is", "he will", instead of these write "don't", "didn't", "isn't", "he's", "he'll", etc. Don't forget to start sentences with capital letters and to put punctuation marks. Otherwise your answer is wrong.

In some exercises after selecting button "check" the text fields with wrong answers become clear.

Read attentively the theory and you'll pass all the tests perfectly!

Good luck!

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Unit 1 Tense consolidation: present time

Basic contrasts:

present simple
and present
continuous

1 Present simple generally refers to:

Facts that are always true

*Water **boils** at 100 degrees Celsius.*

Habits

*British people **drink** a lot of tea*

States

*I **don't like** gangster films.*

2 Present continuous (progressive) generally refers to actions which are in progress at the moment.

These can be temporary:

*I' **m staying** in a hotel until I find a flat.*

They can be actually in progress: *The dog **is sleeping** on our bed!*

Or they can be generally in progress but not actually happening at the moment:

*I' **m learning** to drive.*

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State verbs and event (action or dynamic) verbs

1 State verbs describe a continuing state, so do not usually have a continuous form. Typical examples are:
believe, belong, consist, contain, doubt, fit, have, know, like, love, matter, mean, own, prefer, understand, seem, suppose, suspect, want, wish

2 Some verbs have a stative meaning and a different active meaning. Typical examples are:

be, depend, feel, have, measure, see, taste, think, weigh

Compare these uses:

State

*Jack **is** noisy.*

*Deirdre **has** a Porsche.*

*I **think** I like you!*

*This fish **tastes** awful!*

*I **feel** that you are wrong.*

*This bag **weighs** a ton!*

*It **depends** what you mean*

Event

*Jill **is being** noisy.*

*We **are having** an interesting conversation!*

*David **is thinking** about getting a new job.*

*I **am just tasting** the soup.*

*I **am feeling** terrible.*

*We **are weighing** the body.*

*I **am depending** on you.*

The differences in 2 apply to all tenses, not just present tenses.

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Other uses of
present continuous

1 Temporary or repeated actions

This use emphasises a temporary or repeated habitual action.

*My car has broken down, so I **am walking** to work these days.*

***Are you enjoying** your stay her?*

2 Complaints about bad habits

*You **are always complaining** about my cooking!*

Other possible adverbs are: *constantly-, continually, forever*

3 With verbs describing change and development

*Things **are getting** worse!*

*More and more people **are giving up** smoking.*

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Other uses of
present simple

1 Making declarations

Verbs describing opinions and feelings tend to be state verbs.

*I **hope** you'll come to my party.*

*I **bet** you don't know the answer!*

2 Headlines

These are written in a 'telegram' style, and references to the past are usually simplified to present simple.

*Ship **sinks** in midnight collision.*

3 Instructions and itineraries

Instructions and recipes can be written in present simple instead of in imperative forms. This style is more personal.

*First you **roll out** the pastry.*

Itineraries are descriptions of travel arrangements.

*On day three we **visit** Stratford-upon-Avon.*

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4 Summaries of events

Plots of stories, films etc, and summaries of historical events use present (and present perfect) tenses.

*May 1945: The war in Europe **comes** to an end.*

*... At the end of the play both families **realise** that their hatred had caused the deaths of the lovers...*

5 Historic present in narrative and 'funny stories'

In informal speech, it is possible to use the 'historic present' to describe past events, especially to make the narration seem more immediate and dramatic.

*... So then the second man **asks** the first one why he **has** a banana in his ear and the first one **says**...*

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1

Choose the most appropriate words underlined

- a) I haven't decided yet about whether to buy a new car or a second-hand one. But I think about it/I'm thinking about it.
- b) All right, you try to fix the television! But I hope/I'm hoping you know what you're doing!
- c) Every year I visit/I'm visiting Britain to improve my English.
- d) It's time we turned on the central heating. It gets/It is getting colder every day.
- e) Of course, you're Mary, aren't you! I recognise/I am recognising you now.



- f) What's the matter? Why do you look/are you looking at me like that?
- g) The film of *War and Peace* is very long. It lasts/It is lasting over four hours.
- h) I can see from what you say that your mornings are very busy! But what do you do/are you doing in the afternoons?
- i) I'm going to buy a new swimming costume. My old one doesn't fit/isn't fitting any more.
- j) That must be the end of the first part of the performance. What happens now/is happening now?

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2

Choose the most suitable word or phrase to complete each sentence

- a) What exactly ?
A) is this job involving B) does this job involve
- b) Who exactly ?
A) does own this car B) does this car belong to
- c) that we have been here for six months already!
A) Do you realise B) Are you realising
- d) I'd like to stay longer. But just for the weekend.
A) I come B) I've come
- e) Terry is in bed. He flu.
A) has B) is having
- f) This new teaching job is really difficult, but
A) I survive B) I'm surviving
- g) What on that notice?
A) does it write B) does it say
- h) Ladies and gentlemen, I this ship *HMS Highlight*.
A) name B) am naming
- i) Absolutely! I with you completely.
A) agree B) am agreeing
- j) this car. Do you want to buy it?
A) I sell B) I'm selling

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3

Put each word in brackets into the most suitable present tense

- a) I _____ (hear) that you have been promoted. Congratulations!
- b) British people _____ (drink) more and more wine, apparently.
- c) I hope Sarah will be here soon. I _____ (depend) on her.
- d) Please be quiet! You _____ (continually interrupt).
- e) Hey, you! What _____ (you think) you're doing?
- f) Could you come here please? I _____ (want) to talk to you now.
- g) Jane is away on holiday so Linda _____ (handle) her work.
- h) To be honest, I _____ (doubt) whether Jim will be here next week.
- i) You've only just started the job, haven't you? How _____ (you get on)?
- j) Pay no attention to Graham. He _____ (just be) sarcastic again.

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4

Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that the meaning stays the same

a) What's your opinion of Ted's new book?

What do

b) Nigel keeps interrupting me.

Nigel is

c) What is the meaning of this word?

What does

d) The number of people who own bicycles is increasing.

More and more people

e) What about going to that new film at the Rex tonight?

How do

f) What is the weight of that piece of meat?

How much

g) Never mind about the price, just buy it!

The price

h) There's a smell of onions in this room.

This room

i) What is inside the box?

What does

j) Paul has flu.

Paul is

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5

Put each word in brackets into the most suitable present tense

I work in a large office with about thirty other people, most of whom I (know) quite well. We (spend) most of the day together, so we have all become friends. In fact, most of my colleagues are interesting, that I (think) of writing a book about them! (take) Helen Watson, for example. Helen (run) the accounts department. At the moment she (go out) with Keith Ballantine, one of the sales representatives, and they (seem) very happy together. But everyone (except Helen apparently) (know) that Keith (always make) eyes at Susan Porter. But I (happen) to know that Susan (dislike) Keith. 'I can't stand people who (apologise) all the time!' she told me. 'And besides, I know he (deceive) poor Helen. He (see) Betty Wills from the overseas department.' And plenty of other interesting things (go on) For instance, every week money (disappear) from the petty cash box. When you (realise) that someone in your office is a thief, it (upset) you at first. But I (also try) to catch whoever it is before the police are called in. I'm not going to tell you who I (suspect). Well, not yet anyway!

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Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the word in capitals, and so the meaning stays the same.

- a) Charles and his father are exactly alike. LOCKS
- b) The cost of excursions is part of the price of the holiday. INCLUDES
- c) I find working here really enjoyable. ENJOYING
- d) I study hard, so I spend a lot of time in the library. MEANS
- e) What's your opinion of Wendy's new painting? THINK
- f) Sunrise is at 4.30 tomorrow morning. THE SUN
- g) What's on your mind at the moment? ABOUT
- h) Neil has the bad habit of getting in people's way. ALWAYS
- i) I am losing my voice. GOING
- j) How long is that wall ? DOES

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Choose the most suitable word or phrase underlined.

- a) I work in this office all this year/all the time.
- b) Are you studying French for long/at the moment?
- c) I am not making much money these days/so far this year.
- d) The food tastes worse now/usually. You've put too much salt in.
- e) We normally/forever get in touch with customers by post.
- f) Pete was ill but he is getting over his illness currently/now.
- g) I'm feeling rather run down lately/at present, doctor.
- h) I always stay on duty since/until six o'clock.
- i) People continually/traditionally prepare coloured eggs at Easter.
- j) Fortunately the baby now recently sleeps all night.

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8

Identify any possible errors in these sentences, and correct them *if necessary*.

- a) I'm depending on you, so don't make any mistakes!
- b) Is this total including the new students?
- c) Excuse me, but do you wait for someone?
- d) These potatoes are tasting a bit funny.
- e) How are you feeling today?
- f) I look forward to hearing from you.
- g) I have a feeling that something goes wrong.
- h) What's that you're eating?
- i) Are you hearing anything from Wendy these days?
- j) I think you're being rather mean about this.

Unit 2 Tense consolidation: future time

Basic contrasts:
will, going to,
present
continuous

1 *Will* is normally known as the predictive future, and describes known facts, or what we suppose is true.

I'll be late home this evening.

*The company **will** make a profit next year.*

This can also take the form of an assumption:

That'll be Jim at the door.

This means that I suppose it is Jim.

2 *Will* is also used to express an immediate decision:

I'll take this one.

Decisions expressed with *going to* refer to a more distant point in the future.

Other uses of *will* and *shall* are in Units 11 and 12.

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3 *Be going to* describes intentions or plans. At the moment of speaking the plans have already been made.

*I'm **going to** wait here until Carol gets back.*

Going to is also used to describe an event whose cause is present or evident.

*Look at that tree! It's **going to** fall.*

Decisions expressed with *going to* refer to a more distant point in the future.

Other uses of *will* and *shall* are in Units 11 and 12.

4 Present continuous describes fixed arrangements, especially social and travel arrangements. A time reference is usually included.

5 Contrasts between *going to* and *will* may be a matter of speaker preference.

The first two examples in 1 would not seem inappropriate if *going to* was used, possibly because the sense of the cause is present in the speaker's mind.

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- Future continuous
- 1 This describes an event which will be happening at a future point.
*Come round in the morning. I'll **be painting** the kitchen.*
 - 2 It can also describe events which are going to happen anyway, rather than events which we choose to make happen.
*I won't bother to fix a time to see you, because I'll **be calling** into the office anyway several times next week.*
 - 3 In some contexts future continuous also sounds more polite than *will*.
***Will** you **be going** to the shops later? If you go, could you get me some potatoes?*
 - 4 It can also be used to refer to fixed arrangements and plans.
*The band **will be performing** live in Paris this summer.*

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Future perfect

1 This has both simple and continuous forms, and refers to time which we look back at from a future point.

*In two years' time I'll **have finished** this book.*

*By the end of the month, I'll **have been working** for this firm for a year.*

2 It can also be used to express an assumption on the part of the speaker.

*You **won't have heard** the news, of course.*

This means that I assume you have not heard the news.

Other ways of referring to the future

1 *Is / are to be*

This is used to describe formal arrangements.

*All students **are to assemble** in the hall at 9.00.*

See also Units 11 and 12 for uses expressing obligation.

2 *Be about to, be on the point of, be due to*

Be about to and *be on the point of* both refer to the next moment.

*I think the play is **about to** start now.*

*Mary is **on the point of** resigning.*

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Be due to refers to scheduled times.

*The play is **due to** start in five minutes.*

*Ann's flight is **due** at 6.20.*

3 Present simple and present perfect

Present simple is used to refer to future time in future time clauses.

*When we **get** there, we'll have dinner.*

Present perfect can also be used instead of present simple when the completion of the event is emphasised.

*When we've **had** a rest, we'll go out.*

4 Present simple is also used to describe fixed events which are not simply the wishes of the speaker.

*Tom **retires** in three years.*

Similarly, calendar references use the present simple.

*Christmas **is** on a Tuesday next year.*

*It's all go - next week I **have** my operation; then the week after that I go on holiday...*

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Other future references

1 *Hope*

This can be followed by either present or future tenses.

I hope it doesn't rain.

I hope it won't rain.

2 Other verbs followed by *will*.

Most verbs of thinking can be followed by *will* if there is future reference.

These include: *think, believe, expect, doubt*.

I expect the train will be late.

I doubt whether United will win.

3 *Just/just about to*

Just can be used to describe something on the point of happening. *Hurry up!*

The train is just leaving/just about to leave.

4 *Shall*

The use of *shall* for first person in future reference is generally considered to be restricted in British English and possibly declining in use.

See Units 11 and 12 for uses in expressing obligation. For some speakers, *shall* is used in formal speech and in written language.

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1

Choose the most appropriate words underlined.

- a) Jack is/is going to be sixty - five next month so he retires/will be retiring.
- b) Quick, here comes a police car! What will we say/are we going to say about the broken window?
- c) Helen and Andrew are due to separate/are on the point of separating.
- d) Don't be so impatient! I'll just come/I'm just coming.
- e) I have to be back at 3.30 so I'm leaving/I leave before lunch.
- f) What do you think you'll be doing/you'll do in five years' time?
- g) Come on, get a move on, or we'll miss/we'll have missed the plane!
- h) Will you be working/Will you work the week after Christmas ? I was thinking of visiting you.
- i) By the time Jean gets back, it'll be/it will have been too late.
- j) Don't phone after 11.00. I'll be/I'll have been asleep.

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2

Put the verb in brackets into a suitable tense.

- a) In twenty four hours' time (I relax) on my yacht.
- b) 'There's someone at the door.'
'That (be) the postman.'
- c) By the time you get back Harry (leave).
- d) It's only a short trip. I (be) back in an hour.
- e) What (you do) this Saturday evening? Would you like to go out?
- f) By the end of the week we (decide) what to do.
- g) It (not be) long before Doctor Smith is here.
- h) I've pressed the red button. Now what (I do)?
- i) It's very hot in here. I think I (faint).
- j) What (you give) Ann for her birthday? Have you decided yet?

3

Choose the most appropriate continuation for each sentence.

- a) Paula's flight is bound to be late although
A) it arrives at 6.00. B) it's due at 6.00. C) it's arriving at six.
- b) It's no use phoning Bob at the office, he
A) will be leaving. B) is leaving. C) will have left.
- c) Everyone says that this year City
A) are going to win the Cup. B) are winning the Cup. C) win the Cup.

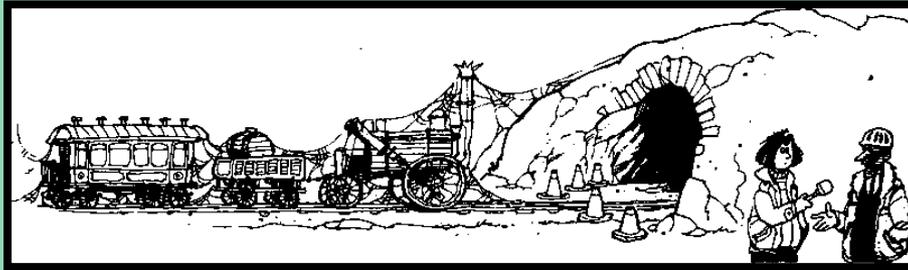
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d) I don't feel like visiting my relatives this year so

A) I won't go.

B) I'm not going.

C) I don't go.



e) According to the latest forecast, the tunnel

A) will be finished next year.

B) will have been finished next year.

C) is finishing next year.

f) You can borrow this calculator, I

A) am not going to need it.

B) won't have been needing it.

C) am not needing it.

g) I'm sorry dinner isn't ready yet, but it

A) is going to be ready in a minute.

B) will have been ready in a minute.

C) will be ready in a minute.

h) Can you send me the results as soon as you

A) hear anything?

B) are hearing anything?

C) will have heard anything?

i) You can try asking Martin for help but

A) it won't do you any good.

B) it's not doing you any good.

C) it won't be doing you any good.

j) Don't worry about the mistake you made, nobody

A) will notice.

B) is noticing.

C) will be noticing.

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4

Complete each sentence with a suitable word or phrase referring to future time.

- a) By this time next year, the government _____ resigned.
- b) Wait for me here until _____ back.
- c) We are on _____ clinching the deal.
- d) No one can predict what Carol is _____ next.
- e) This time next week I _____ on the beach!
- f) Are _____ on Wednesday evening? I've got tickets for the match.
- g) I've lost the key! How _____ get in now?
- h) I won't be long. I _____ just _____ my hair.
- i) We only posted the invitations yesterday so you _____ received yours yet.
- j) Goodbye for now. I _____ in touch with you later in the week.

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5

Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that the meaning stays the same.

a) I don't suppose you have heard the news.

You won't

b) The Prime Minister expects a victory for his party.

The Prime Minister believes that

c) A new manager will take Mr Brown's place in the new year.

Mr Brown is

d) I've been in this company for three years, come the end of the month.

By the end of the month I

e) Why don't you come to see us during lunch?

Why don't you come to see us when we

f) What exactly do you intend to do?

What exactly are you

g) The arrival of the train has been delayed, I'm afraid.

The train will

h) Let's leave at the end of the next lecture.

As soon as

i) There will be a team members' meeting tomorrow.

The team members

j) This book will take me two years to write.

In two years' time

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6

Choose the most appropriate word or phrase underlined.

a) I'll be back after a few minutes/in a few minutes.



b) I'm sure that everything will be all right at the end/in the end.

c) Please call me the moment/exactly when you hear any news.

d) I should be back by the time/at the time the film begins.

e) I'm sure Fiona will be here before long/after a while.

f) I can't leave on Tuesday. I won't be ready until then/by then.

g) By twenty four hours/this time tomorrow I'll be in Bangkok.

h) Diana will be retiring soon/already.

i) There will be no official announcements forthwith/from now on.

j) Bye for now. I'll see you in two weeks' time/two weeks later.

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7

Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the word in capitals. Do not change the word in any way.

- a) What time is the train for Nottingham? LEAVE
- b) What do you intend to do now? GOING
- c) You'll find me waiting outside the station. BE
- d) Who will be your assistant on this project? WORKING
- e) Scientists are on the point of making a vital breakthrough. ABOUT
- f) Maria is pregnant again. HAVE
- g) I'll be home late. UNTIL
- h) No one knows who is going to win the match. WHAT
- i) David is bound to be here on time. WON'T
- j) Mary and Alan's wedding is next weekend. MARRIED

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8

Decide whether the pairs of sentences a) and b) could be equally acceptable in the context given, or whether one is more appropriate.

- a) You can't leave early,
 - A) we're having a meeting.
 - B) we're going to have a meeting.
- b) We've run out of fuel.
 - A) What are we doing now?
 - B) What are we going to do now?
- c) Oh dear, I've broken the vase.
 - A) What will your mother say?
 - B) What is our mother going to say?
- d) According to the weather forecast,
 - A) it'll rain tomorrow.
 - B) it's going to rain tomorrow.
- e) I'd like to call round and see you.
 - A) What'll you be doing in the morning?
 - B) What are you doing in the morning?
- f) I've got nothing to do tomorrow so
 - A) I'll get up late.
 - B) I'm going to get up late.
- g) It's my eighteenth birthday next month so
 - A) I'm having a party.
 - B) I'll be having a party.
- h) Why don't you come with us?
 - A) It'll be a great trip.
 - B) It's going to be a great trip.
- i) When you get to the airport
 - A) someone will wait for you.
 - B) someone will be waiting for you.
- j) Shut up, will you!
 - A) I'm getting angry in a minute.
 - B) I'm going to get angry in a minute.

Unit 3 Tense consolidation: past time

Basic contrasts:
past simple and
past continuous

1 Past simple generally refers to:

Completed actions *I got up, switched off the radio, and sat down again.*

Habits *Every day I went to the park.*

States *In those days, I didn't like reading.*

2 Past continuous (progressive) generally refers to:

Actions in progress (often interrupted by events)

I was drinking my coffee at the time.

While I was opening the letter, the phone rang.

Background description in narrative

I entered the office and looked around. Most people were working at their desks, but Jane was staring out the window and pretending to write something at the same time.

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Changing states

*The car **was getting** worse all the time. One of the headlights **was gradually falling off**, and the engine **was making** more and more funny noises.*

Repeated actions - criticism

With a frequency adverb, this use is similar to the use of present continuous to express annoyance.

*When Jane was at school, she **was always losing** things.*

3 Past continuous is not used to describe general habitual actions, without the sense of criticism mentioned above. Past simple is used for this meaning.

*When I lived in London, I **walked** through the park every day.*

Past perfect simple and continuous

1 Past perfect tenses in general refer to:

An event in the past which happens before another event in the past, where there is no time expression to make this clear.

*By the time I got to the station, the train **had left**.*

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Compare this with:

The train left five minutes before I got to the station.

In this example, the sequence of events is made clear by *before*.

2 Past perfect continuous (progressive).

The contrasts between past simple and past continuous can be made in past perfect tenses for events further back in the past.

*I **had been living** in a bed-sitter up to then.*

*While I **had been talking** on the phone, Jimmy **had escaped**.*

*The whole place was deserted, but it was obvious that someone **had been living** there.*

*They'd **been cooking** in the kitchen for a start, and they **hadn't bothered** to clear up the mess.*

3 Past perfect is also common in indirect speech. See Unit 16.

4 Past perfect is not used simply to describe an event in the distant past. There must be another past event, less far away in the past, with which it contrasts.

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*Used to and
would*

1 *Used to*

This often contrasts with the present. The contrast may be stated or understood.

I used to go swimming a lot (but I don't now).

The negative form is either:

I didn't use to or I used not to (rare for some speakers)

The form *I didn't used to* may also be found. This is usually considered incorrect, unless we consider *used to* as an unchanging semi-modal form.

There is no present time reference possible.

2 *Would*

This is used to describe repeated actions, not states. It describes a habitual activity which was typical of a person.

Every week he'd buy his mother a bunch of flowers.

Used to would also be possible here.

Compare:

I used to like cowboy films.

Would is not possible here.

Would is more common in written language and often occurs in reminiscences.

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Unfulfilled past events

1 These describe events intended to take place, but which did not happen.

I was going to phone you, but I forgot.

I was thinking of going to Italy this year, but I haven't decided.

I was about to do it, but I started doing something else.

Jack was to have taken part, but he fell ill.

2 The contrasting past event is often understood.

How are you? I was going to phone you... (but I didn't).

3 Polite forms

These are common with *wonder*.

I was wondering if you wanted to come to the cinema.

See Units 11 and 12 for comment on this.

4 Contrasts with present perfect tenses

See Unit 4 for contrasts between past simple and present perfect tenses.

Past tenses are also used to express unreal time. See Units 8 and 9.

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1

Choose the most appropriate words underlined

- a) When you passed the town hall clock, did you notice/were you noticing what time it was?
- b) Last night my neighbours were shouting/would shout for hours and I couldn't get to sleep.
- c) When you lived in London, did you use to travel/were you travelling by bus?
- d) Everyone was having a good time, although not many people danced/were dancing.



- e) - Excuse me, but this seat is mine.
- I'm sorry, I didn't realise/hadn't realised that you were sitting here.
- f) Jill didn't eat/hadn't eaten all day, so she was really hungry at this point.
- g) - Paul has forgotten to book the tickets I'm afraid.
- He was always doing/would do something like that!
- h) It took a while for me to notice, but then I did. Everyone stared/was staring at me.
What had I done wrong?
- i) Nobody bothered to tell me that the school decided/had decided to have a special holiday that Friday.
- j) I was trying/tried to get in touch with you all day yesterday. Where were you?

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2

Put each verb in brackets into a suitable tense. All sentences refer to past time.

- a) I realised that someone (steal) my wallet when I (feel) their hand in my jacket pocket.
- b) When I (phone) Helen last night she (wash) her hair and she (not finish) when I finally (get to) her house.
- c) Peter (offer) me another drink but I decided I (drink) enough.
- d) Nobody (watch), so the little boy (take) the packet of sweets from the shelf and (put) it in his pocket.
- e) I (not realise) that I (leave) my umbrella on the bus until it (start) to rain.
- f) At school I (dislike) the maths teacher because he (always pick) on me.
- g) Wherever Marion (find) a job, there was someone who (know) that she (go) to prison.
- h) It was only much later I (find out) that during all the time I (write) to my penfriend, my mother (open) and reading the replies!
- i) I (not understand) what (go on). Several people (shout) at me, and one (wave) a newspaper in front of my face.
- j) I (know) I (do) well in my exams even before I (receive) the official results.

Advanced Language Practice

4

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

This time last year I (1) _____ (cycle) in the rain along a country road in France with a friend of mine. We (2) _____ (decide) to go on a cycling holiday in Normandy. Neither of us (3) _____ (go) to France before, but we (4) _____ (know) some French from our time at school and we (5) _____ (manage) to brush up on the basics. Now we (6) _____ (wonder) if we (7) _____ (make) the right decision. We (8) _____ (plan) our route carefully in advance, but we (9) _____ (forget) one important thing, the weather. It (10) _____ (rain) solidly since our arrival and that night we (11) _____ (end up) sleeping in the waiting room at a railway station. Then the next morning as we (12) _____ (ride) down a steep hill my bike (13) _____ (skid) on the wet road and I (14) _____ (fall off). I (15) _____ (realise) immediately that I (16) _____ (break) my arm, and after a visit to the local hospital I (17) _____ (catch) the next train to Calais for the ferry home. Unfortunately my parents (18) _____ (not expect) me home for a fortnight, and (19) _____ (go) away on holiday. So I (20) _____ (spend) a miserable couple of weeks alone, reading *Teach Yourself French*.

Advanced Language Practice

5

In each sentence decide whether one or both of the alternative tenses given are appropriate.

- a) In those days, I always used to get up/got up early in the morning.
- b) When I got to the cinema Jack had been waiting/was waiting for me.
- c) We would always have/were always having breakfast in bed on Sundays.
- d) Mary was always falling/always fell ill before important examinations.
- e) My sister used to own/would own a motorcycle and sidecar.
- f) Pay no attention to Dave's remarks. He wasn't meaning/didn't mean it.
- g) I felt awful after lunch. I ate/had eaten too much.
- h) Brenda left/had left before I had time to talk to her.
- i) The explanation was simple. In 1781 HMS Sovereign on her way back from India had sighted/sighted an empty boat drifting off the African coast.



- j) Pauline has changed a lot. She didn't always use to look/wasn't always looking like that.

Advanced Language Practice

6

Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the word or words in capitals.

- a) I intended to call you yesterday, but I forgot. GOING
- b) We used to spend Sunday afternoons working in the garden. WOULD
- c) Paul had the irritating habit of making trouble. ALWAYS
- d) Diana wasn't always as rude as that BE
- e) I felt happy about the improvement in Jean's condition. BETTER
- f) I wasn't very keen on sport in those days. USE
- g) I might possibly go to the theatre tonight. WAS
- h) I had to go past your house so I decided to drop in. PASSING
- i) Susan booked out before we got to her hotel. BY THE TIME
- j) What did you do at the moment of the explosion ? WHEN

Advanced Language Practice

7

Choose the most appropriate time expression underlined.

- a) Once/Afterwards I'd read the manual, I found I could use the computer quite well.
- b) It was more than a month before/until I realised what had happened.
- c) I managed to talk to Carol just as/while she was leaving.
- d) It wasn't until/up to 1983 that Nigel could afford to take holidays abroad.
- e) George always let me know by the time/whenever he was going to be late.
- f) I was having a bath at the time/that time, so I didn't hear the doorbell.
- g) We bought our tickets and five minutes after/after the train arrived.
- h) According to Grandpa, people used to dress formally those days/in his day.
- i) Everyone was talking but stopped at the time/the moment Mr Smith entered the room.
- j) The letter still hadn't arrived by/until the end of the week.

Advanced Language Practice

8

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

Harry went back to the camp the following morning, but it was in some confusion. Soldiers (1) (wander) around carrying equipment from one place to another, but there (2) (not seem) to be any purpose to what they (3) (do). Harry (4) (never be) in an army camp before, but it (5) (not take) a genius to realise that most of the officers (6) (take) the first opportunity to abandon the men and head for safety. He (7) (try) to phone the newspaper, but something (8) (happen) to the telephone lines. He (9) (try) to find out what exactly (10) (go on), when the first plane (11) (fly) low over the camp. A wooden building a few hundred yards away suddenly (12) (disappear) in an explosion of flame. Before long bombs (13) (explode) all around him, and then everything (14) (go) quiet. The planes (15) (vanish) as suddenly as they (16) (appear). Smoke (17) (rise) from burning buildings. A dead man (18) (lie) next to Harry, the first dead person he (19) (ever see). And suddenly it (20) (begin) to rain.

Unit 4 Tense consolidation: present perfect

Present perfect
simple

1 Present perfect simple refers to:

Recent events, without a definite time given. The recentness may be indicated *by just*.

We've missed the turning.

I've just seen a ghost!

Indefinite events, which happened at an unknown time in the past. No definite time is given.

Jim has had three car accidents. (up to the present)

Indefinite events which may have an obvious result in the present

I've twisted my ankle. (that's why I'm limping)

With state verbs, a state which lasts up to the present.

I've lived here for the past ten years.

Advanced Language Practice

A habitual action in a period of time up to the present

*I've **been** jogging every morning for the last month.*

2 Contrasts with past simple

Past simple is used with time expressions which refer to definite times. The time may be stated or understood. Compare:

*I've **bought** a new car. (indefinite)*

*I **bought** a new car **last week**. (definite)*

*I **bought** the car after all. (implied definite: the car we talked about)*

Choice between past simple and present perfect for recent events may depend on the mental attitude of the speaker. This in turn may depend on whether the speaker feels distant in time or place from the event.

*I've **left** my wallet in the car. I'm going back to get it.*

Here the speaker may be about to return, and feels that the event is connected with the present.

*I **left** my wallet in the car. I'm going back to get it.*

Here the speaker may feel separated in time from the event, or be further away.

Advanced Language Practice

Present perfect
continuous

1 Present perfect continuous (progressive) can refer to a range of meanings, depending on the time expression used and the context. A state which lasts up to the present moment

*I've **been waiting** for you for three hours!*

An incomplete activity

*I've **been cleaning** the house but I still haven't finished.*

To emphasise duration

*I've **been writing** letters all morning*

A recently finished activity

*I've **been running**. That's why I look hot.*

A repeated activity

*I've **been taking** French lessons this year.*

2 Contrasts with present perfect simple

There may be little contrast when some state verbs are used.

*How long have you **lived** here?*

*How long have you **been living** here?*

Advanced Language Practice

Some verbs (especially *sit, lie, wait* and *stay*) prefer the continuous form. There may be a contrast between completion and incompleteness, especially if the number of items completed is mentioned.

Completed: emphasis on achievement

*I've **ironed** five shirts this morning.*

Incomplete, or recently completed : emphasis on duration

*I've **been ironing** my shirts this morning.*

Time expressions
with present
perfect

Meaning with present perfect tenses is associated with certain time expressions.

Contrast with past simple may depend on the choice of time expression. Past

simple: referring to a specific time *yesterday, last week, on Sunday*. Present

perfect simple: *since 1968* (the beginning of a period of time), *already*

(indefinite past)

Many time expressions are not associated with a specific tense.

*I haven't seen Helen **recently**.*

*I saw Jim **recently**.*

Advanced Language Practice

1

Choose the most appropriate tense underlined

- a) I can't believe it, inspector. You mean that Smith stole/has stolen/ has been. stealing money from the till all this time!
- b) You three boys look very guilty! What did you do/have you done/have you been doing since I left/have left the room?
- c) Why on earth didn't you tell/haven't you told me about that loose floorboard? I tripped/have tripped over it just now and hurt myself.
- d) It's a long time since I saw/have seen/have been seeing your brother Paul. What did he do/has he done/has he been doing lately ?
- e) I can't believe that you ate/have eaten/have been eating three pizzas already! I only brought/have only brought them in fifteen minutes ago!
- f) Don't forget that you didn't see/haven't seen Mrs Dawson. She has waited/has been waiting outside since 10.30.
- g) What did you think/have you thought of Brighton? Did you stay/Have you stayed there long?
- h) I feel really tired. I weeded/have weeded/have been weeding the garden for the last three hours and I didn't rest/haven't rested for a single moment.
- i) I'm having problems with David. He has called/has been calling me up in the middle of the night and told/telling me his troubles.
- j) How long did you have/have you had/have you been having driving lessons? And did you take/have you taken/have you been taking your test yet?

Advanced Language Practice

2

Put each verb in brackets into the most appropriate perfect or past tense.

- a) I'm sorry I _____ (not come) to class lately. I _____ (work) late in the evenings for the past fortnight.
- b) So far we _____ (not notice) anything unusual, but we _____ (not pay) very close attention.
- c) I wonder if Mary _____ (reach) home yet? She _____ (leave) too late to catch the bus.
- d) Here is the news. The Home Office _____ (announce) that the two prisoners who _____ (escape) from Dartmoor prison earlier this morning _____ (give themselves up) to local police.
- e) _____ (you make up) your minds? What _____ (you decide) to do?
- f) Harry _____ (leave) home rather suddenly and we _____ (not hear) from him since.
- g) Recent research _____ (show) that Columbus _____ (not discover) America, but that Vikings _____ (land) there five hundred years before him.
- h) I think that people _____ (become) tired of the poor quality of television programmes, though they _____ (improve) lately.
- i) _____ (something happen) to the lines? I _____ (try) to get through to Glasgow for the past hour.
- j) Bill _____ (get) that new job, but he _____ (complain) about it ever since.

Advanced Language Practice

3

Complete each sentence a) to j) with an appropriate ending from 1) to 10). Do not use an ending more than once

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| a) I haven't been feeling very well | 1) ...time and time again. |
| b) I went to the dentist's | 2) ...all my life. |
| c) I've lived here | 3) ...so far. |
| d) Don't worry. I haven't been waiting | 4) ...for the time being. |
| e) I've written two pages | 5) ...for the past hour or two. |
| f) I waited outside your house | 6) ...yet. |
| g) I've warned you about this | 7) ...till half past eight. |
| h) I haven't made a decision | 8) ...for a while. |
| i) The repair worked | 9) ...the other day. |
| j) I've decided to believe you | 10) ...long. |

Advanced Language Practice

4

Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that the meaning stays the same

a) It's a long time since I last went to a football match.

I haven't

b) This is my second visit to Hungary.

This is the second time

c) I paid this bill earlier, actually.

Actually I've

d) We haven't been swimming for ages.

It's ages

e) Mary started learning French five years ago.

Mary has

f) I am on the tenth page of the letter I am writing.

So far I

g) After I arrived here, I started to feel better.

Since arriving here,

h) It's over twenty years since we got married.

We have

i) The last time I saw Dick was in 1985.

I haven't

j) There is a definite improvement in your work.

Lately your work.

Advanced Language Practice

5

Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the word in capitals, and so that the meaning stays the same.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| a) You have missed the beginning of the film. | HAS |
| b) I can't seem to stop sneezing lately. | BEEN |
| c) Paul is different from what he used to be. | HAS |
| d) This has been my home for thirty years. | HAVE |
| e) Eating Chinese food is new to me. | BEFORE |
| f) Is there any news? | HAPPENED |
| g) I bought my car in 1985 and I'm still driving it. | BEEN |
| h) I don't know where my keys are. | HAVE |
| i) Sue doesn't have her dictionary with her; it's at home. | HAS |
| j) Tony hasn't been to Paris before. | FIRST |

Advanced Language Practice

6

Choose the most appropriate phrase for each situation.

- a) The price of petrol has risen/has been rising by 15% over the past year.
- b) No wonder you are overweight! You have eaten/You have been eating chocolates all day long!
- c) I've read/I've been reading *War and Peace* this morning.
- d) Doesn't this room look better? I've put/I've been putting some posters up on the walls.
- e) Don't disappoint me! I've counted on you/I've been counting on you.
- f) Don't forget your pills today. Have you taken them/Have you been taking them?
- g) Who has worn/has been wearing my scarf?
- h) I think there's something wrong with your motorbike. It's made/It's been making some very funny noises.
- i) Jack has asked/has been asking for a pay-rise three times this year.
- j) I've been phoning/I've phoned Ann all evening, but there's no reply.

Advanced Language Practice

7

Choose the most suitable word or phrase underlined.

- a) It's a long time since/when I last saw you.
- b) I've seen Bill quite often lately/from time to time.
- c) Have you spoken to the director beforehand/already?
- d) I've lived in the same house for years/for ever.
- e) I've read the paper now/still.
- f) Diana has bought a computer two years ago/since then.
- g) Nothing much has been happening by now/so far.
- h) I've finished reading her new book at last/this evening.
- i) Sue bought a CD player last week and she's been listening to music ever since/for a while.
- j) Sorry, but I haven't got that work finished already/yet.

Advanced Language Practice

8

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

Ever since the day I (1) (decide) to move to London, I (2) (worry) whether the decision I (3) (take) was the right one. As I (4) (already sell) my house and (5) (arrange) a new job, it is too late to change my mind. However, since then I (6) (hear) a lot of negative things about living in the capital, and lately some of them (7) (begin) to bother me. I (8) (grow up) in a fairly small town and I (9) (spend) all of my life there. I (10) (always want) to live in a big city and so when my company (11) (offer) me a job in their London office, I (12) (grab) at the chance. But according to a programme I (13) (just hear) on the radio, more and more people (14) (stop) working in London recently, and a lot of large companies (15) (choose) to move away from the center. Of course I (16) (tell) my parents that I'm moving and they (17) (accept) my decision, but when I (18) (tell) my friends they (19) (seem) rather shocked. Since then I (20) (hope) secretly that my company would tell me that the move was off!

Unit 5 PROGRESS TEST
Units 1, 2, 3, 4

Advanced Language Practice

1

Put each verb in brackets into an appropriate tense.

Farmers, as we all (1) (know), (2) (have) a hard time of it in Britain lately, and (3) (turn) to new ways of earning income from their land. This (4) (involve) not only planting new kinds of crops, but some strange ways of making money, the most unusual of which has got to be sheep racing. Yes, you (5) (hear) me correctly! A farmer in the West of England now (6) (hold) sheep races on a regular basis, and during the past year over 100 000 people (7) (turn up) to watch the proceedings. 'I (8) (pass) the farm on my way to the sea for a holiday,' one punter told me, 'and I (9) (think) I'd have a look. I (10) (not believe) it was serious, to tell you the truth.' According to a regular visitor, betting on sheep is more interesting than betting on horses. 'At proper horse races everyone (11) (already study) the form of the horses in advance, and there are clear favourites. But nobody (12) (hear) anything about these sheep! Most people (13) (find) it difficult to tell one from another in any case.' I (14) (stay) to watch the races, and I must admit that I (15) (find) it quite exciting. In a typical race, half a dozen sheep (16) (race) downhill over a course of about half a mile. Food (17) (wait) for them at the other end of the track, I ought to add! The sheep (18) (run) surprisingly fast, although presumably they (19) (not eat) for a while just to give them some motivation. At any rate, the crowd around me (20) (obviously enjoy) their day out at the races, judging by their happy faces and the sense of excitement.

Advanced Language Practice

2

Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that the meaning stays the same.

- a) This matter is none of your business.
This matter does
- b) This bridge will take us three years to complete.
In three years time we
- c) Patsy wasn't always so unfriendly.
Patsy didn't
- d) We'll be at your house soon.
It won't
- e) I haven't seen Anne for years.
It's years
- f) The dog keeps stealing my socks!
The dog is
- g) After taking the pills, I began to feel much better.
Since taking
- h) We'll have to leave immediately at the end of the film.
The moment
- i) Harry left before we reached the hotel.
By the time
- j) Is there such a place as Eldorado?
Does

Advanced Language Practice

3

Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the word in capitals, and so that the meaning stays the same.

a) When is the train due to arrive?

GET

b) I shouldn't think Paul knows the answer.

DOUBT

c) I've had to wait all afternoon.

BEEN

d) To get to work on time I have to get up at 6.00.

MEANS

e) Today is Liz and John's thirtieth wedding anniversary.

FOR

f) By the end of the week, Harry was well again.

GOT

g) Whose watch is this ?

BELONG

h) Cathy hasn't been on holiday with her sister before.

FIRST

i) My dentist's appointment is for next Wednesday.

TO

j) Brenda had no idea of her next move.

WHAT

Advanced Language Practice

4

Complete each sentence with an appropriate word or phrase.

- a) Can you remember what you _____ ten years ago today?
- b) This is the first jazz concert I _____ to.
- c) Don't eat any more ice cream, you _____ sick.
- d) I have hated this place ever _____ here.
- e) I hope that by the end of the month I _____ all the decorating.
- f) Sheila and Ken _____ to each other since their quarrel last week!
- g) Do _____ going to the cricket match tomorrow?
- h) We can't go skiing because it _____ enough yet.
- i) Penny _____ to going on holiday, but she ended up very disappointed.
- j) I began to recover my strength later, once I _____ a good meal.

Advanced Language Practice

5

Choose the most appropriate word or phrase.

- a) _____ we get to the theatre, the play will have started.
A) As soon as B) Until C) By the time D) Whenever
- b) What's the matter? Haven't you started _____ ?
A) already B) yet C) by now D) soon
- c) The trouble with you is that you're _____ complaining.
A) forever B) often C) still D) each time
- d) Can you remember what you were doing _____ ?
A) the time B) usually C) every day D) at the time
- e) The new school opens _____
A) now B) at once C) next week D) day by day
- f) I haven't been feeling very well _____
A) of late B) not long ago C) currently D) by now
- g) _____ we get to the top of this hill, we'll be all right.
A) Eventually B) Once C) Now D) At the time
- h) It's ages _____ I last saw a decent comedy film on television.
A) that B) ago C) since D) when
- i) I don't go swimming very much _____
A) nowadays B) in those days C) recently D) now and again
- j) _____ we haven't managed to find what we are looking for.
A) To now B) On and off C) Formerly D) So far

Advanced Language Practice

6

Put each verb in brackets into a suitable tense, in either continuous or simple form, according to the context.

- a) This is my new car. What (you think) of it?
- b) -Who are you?
- What do you mean? I (live) here.
- c) I can't find the car keys. What (you do) with them?
- d) Sorry I haven't fixed the plug. I (mean) to get round to it, but I just haven't found the time.
- e) What (you do) on Saturdays?
- f) I don't know what time we'll eat. It (depend) when Helen gets here.
- g) I supported you at the time because I (feel) that you were right.
- h) Peter couldn't understand what had been decided because too many people (talk) at once.
- i) Jean, I'm so glad you've got here at last. I (expect) you all day.
- j) Please don't let me down this time! I (depend) on you.

Advanced Language Practice

7

Put each verb in brackets into an appropriate tense.

- a) Sam (not receive) the parcel the last time I (speak) to him.
- b) I (consider) buying a house but now I (change) my mind.
- c) When you (feel) hungry later, room service (bring) you whatever you (want).
- d) I (find) it difficult to convince the ticket inspector that I (lose) my ticket.
- e) Since I (pay) for our lunch, I (try) to attract the waiter's attention.
- f) As soon as I (have) a good look at the designs, I (send) them back to you.
- g) I (hope) to meet you ever since I (read) your first novel.
- h) Whatever (happen), I (meet) you here in a week's time.
- i) By the time you (finish) getting ready, we (miss) the train!
- j) Sally! I (not expect) to see you here! What (you do) in New York?

Advanced Language Practice

8

Put each verb in brackets into an appropriate tense.

Ask hundreds of people what they (1) (do) on a certain day in August next year, or the year after, and there (2) (be) only one reply. Provided of course that the people you (3) (ask) (4) (belong) to the Elvis Presley Fan Club. Although the King of Rock and Roll (5) (die) nearly two decades ago, his fans (6) (meet) every year since then outside his home in Memphis, Tennessee, to show respect for the singer they (7) (love) so much. Fans like Jean Thomas, from Catford in South London. Jean (8) (visit) Gracelands, the house where Elvis (9) (suffer) his fatal heart attack, twice in the past five years. The first time I (10) (borrow) the money from my Mum, as I (11) (not work) then. But two years ago I (12) (get) married and since then I (13) (work) in my husband Chris's garage. Chris and I (14) (go) together last year, and we (15) (think) of spending two or three months in the USA next year. I (16) (always want) to visit some of the places where Elvis (17) (perform). Like Las Vegas for example.' Jean says that Elvis (18) (be) her obsession ever since she (19) (be) ten years old, and she (20) (own) every single one of his records, good and bad.

Advanced Language Practice

9

Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that the meaning stays the same.

a) The last time I was in Prague was in 1986.

I haven't

b) This will be the team's first match outside England.

This will be the first time

c) Terry will get over his illness. Then his work will improve.

Once

d) There will be someone to meet you on arrival.

When

e) The number of people who attended the fair exceeded our expectations.

More people

f) I didn't receive the results of my test for a month.

It was

g) My work won't be finished by the end of the month.

I

h) Go to the international ticket desk immediately on arrival.

As

i) I didn't know about John's departure.

I didn't know that

j) Quite a few books are missing from the class library.

Several members of the class have not

Advanced Language Practice

10

Put each verb in brackets into an appropriate tense.

- a) I (not understand) what you (wait) for.
- b) (anyone see) my pencil? I (leave) it here somewhere.
- c) When he (not arrive) by 6.00, I (know) he (miss) the bus.
- d) (you go away) this weekend? Or (you run out) of money?
- e) What (you think) you (do) in ten years' time?
- f) I (really enjoy) myself at the moment.
- g) (you let) me know the minute you (hear) any news?
- h) Something (tell) me that you (not listen) to a single word I (say) in the past ten minutes!
- i) What's the matter? (you hurt) your ankle? How (you do) it?
- j) That's definitely the last time that I (lend) you any money!

Advanced Language Practice

11

Complete each sentence with *one* appropriate word.

- a) It's _____ since I last had a good Chinese meal.
- b) Funnily enough I saw Bob quite _____ at the sports club.
- c) I've loved you ever _____ the first day I set eyes on you!
- d) How long _____ was it that you lived in Inverness?
- e) I've _____ to see anyone who can dance as well as Diana.
- f) Could you phone me the _____ you arrive at the hotel so I don't worry ?
- g) I promise to get everything ready _____ eight o'clock at the latest.
- h) Have you finished _____ ? Wow, you are a fast worker, aren't you!
- i) I'm sorry you've been waiting so long, but it will be some time _____ Brian gets back.
- j) Just sit here, would you? The doctor will be with you _____

Advanced Language Practice

12

Decide whether each underlined phrase is appropriate, and rewrite the phrase more appropriately where necessary.

- a) I'm going to see Rob Jones tomorrow? I wonder if you could give him a message from Sally Gordon?
- b) I had a great time in the Greek Islands. I went in a small boat and go fishing every day.
- c) Julie, hi! I'd see you. I've got some good news!
- d) We had a terrible time looking after your dog. I had to look after the cats next door.
- e) We had a lovely time in Madrid. Every day we were exploring the city, and in the evening we went to exciting bars.
- f) The steam engine is usually thought of as a relatively modern invention, but the Greeks invented a kind of steam engine in ancient times.
- g) I felt rather worried. It was very dark darker and colder, and there was still no sign of the rescue helicopter.
- h) Don't worry! All we have to do is wait here until someone will help us.
- i) This meat isn't very good awful! Are you quite sure it was fresh?
- j) The radiator in my room has burst, and there is water all over the floor! You're the manager, what do you want me to do about it?

Unit 6 Passive 1

Basic uses of the passive

1 Agent and instrument

The person who performs an action in a passive sentence is called the agent, introduced by *by*. The agent may or may not be mentioned.

*My purse was found by **one of the cleaners**.*

An object which causes something to happen is called an instrument, introduced by *with*.

*He was hit on the head with **a hammer**.*

2 Most verbs with an object (transitive verbs) can be made passive. Common verbs not used in the passive include:

become, fit (be the right size) get, have, lack, let, like, resemble, suit

Some verbs have both transitive and intransitive meanings.

We arrived at the hotel at eight. (cannot be made passive)

How was the answer arrived at? (passive with a different meaning)

Advanced Language Practice

3 Verbs with two objects

Verbs which have two objects can be made passive in two ways.

*I was handed **a note**. **A note** was handed **to me**.*

Other common verbs of this type are: *bring, give, lend, pass, pay, promise, sell, send, show, tell*

4 Verbs with object and complement

Some verbs have a noun or adjective which describes their object.

*We elected Jim **class representative**.*

*Everyone considered him **a failure**.*

When these are made passive, the complement goes directly after the verb.

*Jim was elected **class representative**.*

*He was considered **a failure**.*

5 Translation

The uses of the passive in English and in other languages are not necessarily the same. Some languages may use passive forms where English uses active ones, and vice versa.

Advanced Language Practice

6 Tenses

Although it is possible to form a wide range of passive tenses, the most used are present simple and continuous, past simple and continuous, present perfect simple, past perfect simple, *will* future, and future perfect. There are also present and past passive infinitives.

Using and not mentioning the agent

1 Change of focus

The passive can change the emphasis of a sentence.

Jack won the prize. (focus on Jack)

The prize was won by Jack. (focus on the prize)

2 Unknown agent

The agent is not mentioned if unknown.

*My wallet **has been taken**.*

In this case, there is no point in adding an agent: 'by somebody'

Advanced Language Practice

3 Generalised agent

If the subject is 'people in general' or 'you' the agent is not mentioned.

*Bicycles **are widely used** in the city instead of public transport.*

4 Obvious agent

If the agent is obvious or has already been mentioned, it is not mentioned.

*Linda **has been arrested!** (we assume by the police)*

*The company agreed to our request and a new car-park **was opened**.*

5 Unimportant agent

If the agent is not important to the meaning of the sentence it is not mentioned.

*I **was advised** to obtain a visa in advance.*

6 Impersonality

Using the passive is a way of avoiding the naming of a specific person who is responsible for an action.

*It **has been decided** to reduce all salaries by 10%.*

In descriptions of processes, there is emphasis on the actions performed rather than on the people who perform them.

*Then the packets **are packed** into boxes of twenty four.*

Advanced Language Practice

1

Correct any verb forms which are impossible or inappropriate. Write "appropriate" or your variant.

- a) A lot of homes in the area have been being broken into by burglars.
- b) As I drove south, I could see that the old road was rebuilding.
- c) I suppose the letter will have been delivered by now.
- d) There is nothing more annoying than been interrupted when you are speaking.
- e) Jim was been given the sack from his new job.
- f) Somehow without my noticing my wallet had been disappeared.
- g) The new shopping centre was opened by the local MR.
- h) Harry is been questioned by the police about the accident.
- i) A lot of meetings have been held, but nothing has being decided yet.
- j) Last week it is decided not to have an office party after all.

Advanced Language Practice

2

Both sentences in each pair have the same meaning. Complete the second sentence.

- a) The crowd was slowly filling the huge stadium.
The huge stadium _____ by the crowd.
- b) The invention of the computer simplified the work of accountants.
Since the computer _____ the work of accountants _____ simplified.
- c) Someone has suggested that the shop should close.
It _____ that the shop should close.
- d) 'I'd take out some travel insurance if I were you, Mr Smith.'
Mr Smith _____ take out some travel insurance.
- e) The waitress will bring your drinks in a moment.
Your drinks _____ in a moment.
- f) Someone used a knife to open this window.
This window _____ a knife.
- g) You will hear from us when we have finished dealing with your complaint
After your complaint _____ you will hear from us.
- h) An announcement of their engagement appeared in the local paper.
Their engagement _____ in the local paper.
- i) Nobody ever heard anything of David again.
Nothing _____ David again.
- j) They paid Sheila £1000 as a special bonus.
£1000 _____ Sheila as a special bonus.

Advanced Language Practice

3

Rewrite each sentence so that it does not contain the words underlined and so that it contains a passive form.

- a) Someone left the phone off the hook all night.
- b) The government has announced that petrol prices will rise tomorrow.

- c) A burglar broke into our house last week.
- d) People asked me the way three times.
- e) The fruit-pickers pick the apples early in the morning.
- f) It's time the authorities did something about this problem.
- g) Lots of people had parked their cars on the pavement.
- h) The government agreed with the report and so they changed the law.

- i) You have to fill in an application form.
- j) They don't know what happened to the ship.

Advanced Language Practice

4

Put each verb in brackets into the passive in an appropriate tense.

- a) The boxes (not pack) yet.
- b) Your food (still prepare).
- c) The new ship (launch) next week.
- d) Luckily by the time we got there the painting (not sell).
- e) We had to go on holiday because our house (decorate).
- f) I'm afraid that next week's meeting (cancel).
- g) If we don't hurry, all the tickets (sell) by the time we get there.
- h) All main courses (serve) with vegetables or salad.
- i) The second goal (score) by Hughes in the 41st minute.
- j) The cathedral (build) in the fourteenth century.

Advanced Language Practice

5

Choose any uses of the agent which are unnecessary.

- a) My jewellery has been stolen by a thief!
- b) It has been decided by the school that Wednesday will be a school holiday.
- c) Harry was pushed over by someone standing next to him in the queue.
- d) The goods are transported by rail to our warehouse in the Midlands.
- e) I was told by someone that you have a vacancy for a computer operator.
- f) Sue has been picked by the selectors for the national team.
- g) The letter was sent by post on the 21st of last month.
- h) The larger portrait was painted by a little-known Flemish artist.
- i) It has been agreed by everyone that no smoking should be allowed.
- j) As I arrived at the conference a note was handed to me by one of the delegates.

Advanced Language Practice

6

Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that the meaning stays the same.

- a) A friend lent George the motorbike he rode in the race.
The motorbike George rode in the race
- b) At the time my aunt was looking after the children for us.
At the time our children
- c) The police have issued a description of the wanted man.
A description
- d) It was a mistake to enter Brian for the exam.
Brian should not
- e) They said they would rather Diana didn't listen to music at work.
Diana
- f) Johnson first became a member of parliament in 1983.
Johnson was first
- g) My legal advisers have told me not to say any more at this time.
I have
- h) Nobody had invited Jean to the party, which annoyed her.
As she
- i) Tony has another six months to finish his thesis.
Tony has been
- j) There is no definite decision yet about the venue of the next Olympic Games.
Nothing

Advanced Language Practice

7

Rewrite each sentence in a more formal style so that it contains a passive form of the word given in capitals.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| a) Sorry, but we've lost your letter. | MISLAY |
| b) The police are grilling Harry down at the station. | QUESTION |
| c) They've found the remains of an old Roman villa nearby. | DISCOVER |
| d) You'll get a rise in salary after six months. | RAISE |
| e) You go in the cathedral from the south door. | ENTER |
| f) They stopped playing the match after half an hour. | ABANDON |
| g) They've stopped traffic from using the centre. | BAN |
| h) They took Chris to court for dangerous driving. | PROSECUTE |
| i) You usually eat this kind of fish with a white sauce. | SERVE |
| j) I don't know your name. | INTRODUCE |

Advanced Language Practice

8

Put each verb in brackets into the passive in an appropriate tense.

- a) Nothing (see) of Pauline since her car (find) abandoned near Newbury last week.
- b) As our new furniture (deliver) on Monday morning I'll have to stay at home to check that it (not damage) during transit.
- c) The new Alhambra hatchback, which in this country (sell) under the name 'Challenger', (fit) with electric windows as standard.
- d) For the past few days I (work) in Jack's office, as my own office (redecorate).
- e) The last time I went sailing with friends the boat (sink) in a gale. Luckily I (not invite) again since then!
- f) It (announce) that the proposed new office block (now not build) because of the current economic situation.
- g) A major new deposit of oil (discover) in the North Sea. It (think) to be nearly twice the size of the largest existing field.
- h) Pictures of the surface of the planet Venus (receive) yesterday from the space probe 'Explorer' which (launch) last year.
- i) A large sum (raise) for the Fund by a recent charity concert but the target of J250 000 (still not reach).
- j) No decision (make) about any future appointment until all suitable candidates (interview).

Unit 7 Passive 2

Have and get
something done,
need doing

1 Have something done

This usually describes a service performed for us by someone else.

*I've just **had** my car serviced.*

It can also describe something unfortunate that happens to someone.

*We **have had** our car stolen so we need a lift.*

This applies to a range of tenses: *I'm **having** my flat painted next week.*

*I **have it done** every year.*

*Sheila **had her hair done** yesterday.*

*I was **having the roof repaired** when it happened.*

Note the quite different colloquial expressions *have someone round/over*. In this case, there is no sense of a service.

*We **had some friends round** for dinner last night.*

2 Get something done

Get cannot be used in all the same contexts as *have* in this case. *Get* is common where there is a feeling that something must be done:

*I must **get** my car serviced.*

Advanced Language Practice

It is also common in orders and imperatives:

Get your hair cut!

There is also a feeling of eventually managing something in some uses:

*I eventually **got the car fixed.***

*Sue always **gets things done** in this office.*

3 The need to have a service done can be described with *need doing*.

*Your hair **needs cutting.***

Get can be used instead of *be* to form the passive in spoken language.

*Martin **got arrested** at a football match.*

Passive *get*

Reporting verbs

1 Present reference

With verbs such as *believe, know, say, think* which report people's opinions, a passive construction is often used to avoid a weak subject, and to give a generalised opinion.

With present reference, the passive is followed by the present infinitive.

*People think that Smith **is in England.***

*Smith **is thought to be** in England.*

Advanced Language Practice

2 Past reference

With past reference, the passive is followed by the perfect past infinitive.

People believe that Smith left England last week.

*Smith is **believed to have left** England last week.*

3 Past reporting verb

If the reporting verb is in the past, the perfect infinitive tends to follow, though not always if the verb *be* is used.

People thought Sue had paid too much.

*Sue **was thought to have paid** too much.*

The police thought that the thief was still in the house.

*The thief **was thought to still be** in the house.*

4 With passive infinitive

Everyone knows the portrait was painted by an Italian.

*The portrait **is known to have been painted** by an Italian.*

Advanced Language Practice

- 5 If there are two objects, two versions are possible.

The portrait is known to have been painted by an Italian.

*An Italian is **known to have painted** the portrait.*

- 6 Continuous infinitive

Past and present continuous infinitives are also used. *Mary is thought to be living in Scotland.*

*The driver is **thought to have been doing** a U-turn.*

Verbs with prepositions

- 1 Ending a sentence with a preposition

It is possible to end a sentence with a preposition in a sentence where a prepositional verb is made passive.

Someone broke into our house.

*Our house was broken **into**.*

- 2 *By* and *with*

With is used after participles such as *filled, packed, crowded, crammed*.

*The train was **packed with** commuters.*

Advanced Language Practice

The difference between *by* and *with* may involve the presence of a person:

*Dave was hit **by** a branch. (an accident)*

*Dave was hit **with** a branch. (a person hit him with one)*

3 *Make* is followed by *to* when used in the passive.

My boss made me work hard.

*I was **made to** work hard by my boss.*

4 *Cover* and verbs which involve similar ideas, such as *surround*, *decorate* can use *with* or *by*. *Cover* can also be followed by *in*.

Common contexts
for the passive

1 Formality

The passive is probably more common in written English, where there tends to be less use of personal reference in some contexts, since the audience may be unknown.

2 Points mentioned in Unit 6

The passive is used to change the focus of the sentence, to avoid generalised subjects, and to make an action impersonal. It is common in descriptions of processes, and in scientific and technical language in general.

Advanced Language Practice

1

Decide whether the sentences in each pair have the same meaning.

- a) Someone is painting our house at the moment.
We are painting our house at the moment.
- b) The dentist is going to take out two of my teeth tomorrow.
I'm having two teeth taken out tomorrow.
- c) Someone stole Mary's motorbike last week.
Mary had stolen her motorbike last week.
- d) I've just been to the hairdresser's. What do you think?
I've just cut my hair at the hairdresser's. What do you think?
- e) Someone has broken into my car.
My car has been broken.
- f) Just a minute. I'll ask someone to wrap this for you.
Just a minute. I'll have to wrap this up for you.
- g) The car hasn't been serviced for a long time.
We haven't had the car serviced for a long time.
- h) They're coming to put in a new water-heater next week.
We're putting in a new water-heater next week.
- i) Would you consider having plastic surgery to alter your nose?
Would you consider having your nose altered by plastic surgery?
- j) A qualified electrician checked the wiring.
We had checked the wiring with a qualified electrician.

Advanced Language Practice

2

Decide in each sentence whether only one or both verbs underlined are suitable.

- a) Jean had/got her handbag snatched.
- b) Unfortunately my uncle was/got killed in the war.
- c) I work slowly, but I have/get my jobs done in the end.
- d) I must have/get these trousers altered.
- e) It took all day, but I eventually had/got the washing-machine repaired.
- f) Several people were/got left behind when the bus drove off.
- g) We have had/got all our money stolen, so we need help.
- h) Why don't you have/get the cooker seen to?
- i) Paul was/got injured after he had been playing for only five minutes.
- j) Helen had/got her house painted last year as usual.

Advanced Language Practice

3

Rewrite each sentence, beginning as shown, so that the meaning stays the same.

a) People think that neither side wanted war.

Neither side is

b) Everyone knows that eating fruit is good for you.

Eating fruit

c) Everyone thought the painting had been destroyed.

The painting

d) People say that the company bid fifty million pounds for the shares.

The company

e) People say the late Mr Johnson was difficult to work with.

The late

f) People think the jewels were stolen by one of the guests.

One of the guests

g) It is believed that the Chinese invented gunpowder.

The Chinese

h) Apparently the ship did not sustain any damage.

The ship

i) It is thought that the two injured men were repairing high-tension cables.

The two injured men

j) There is a rumour that the escaped prisoner is living in Spain.

The escaped prisoner

Advanced Language Practice

4

Rewrite each sentence so that it contains the word in capitals.

- | | |
|--|---------|
| a) We believe that the government has prepared a plan. | HAVE |
| b) We are thinking of getting someone to paint the outside of the house. | PAINTED |
| c) In the end I was unable to find a garage to service my car. | GET |
| d) People say that Mrs Turner was having business difficulties. | BEEN |
| e) The treasure is thought to date from the thirteenth century. | IT |
| f) The police towed away Alan's car. | GOT |
| g) Your hair needs cutting. | GET |
| h) The police believe that a professional thief stole the statue. | BEEN |
| i) Jill's parents are making her study hard. | MADE |
| j) Everyone thought that Helen had missed the train. | TO |

Advanced Language Practice

5

Rewrite each sentence so that it ends with the word underlined.

- a) Another company has taken over our company.
- b) We are dealing with your complaint.
- c) We have not accounted for all the missing passengers.
- d) Someone had tampered with the lock of the front door.
- e) We don't know how they disposed of the body.
- f) I must insist that you keep to the rules.
- g) We are looking into this allegation.
- h) We will frown upon any attempts to cheat in the exam.
- i) The youngest complained that people were picking on him.
- j) Ann was well provided for in her husband's will.

Advanced Language Practice

6

Choose the most appropriate word underlined.

- a) The busy shopping street was thronged by/with people.
- b) The emergency exit was concealed by/from a red curtain.
- c) The price of excursions is included in/with the cost of the holiday.
- d) All through January, the fields were covered by/from snow.
- e) The room was crammed by/with furniture of all descriptions.
- f) Two of the climbers were injured by/with falling rocks.
- g) The island is inhabited by/from people of mainly Chinese origin.
- h) The bank was quickly surrounded from/with armed police.
- i) The window had been smashed from/with a hammer taken from the tool-shed.
- j) The stadium was packed from/with cheering fans.

Advanced Language Practice

7

Put a suitable preposition in each space.

- a) The tree had been decorated _____ coloured balls.
- b) The answers have been included _____ the book.
- c) After the rugby match, Jim's shorts were covered _____ mud.
- d) The victim was struck from behind _____ a heavy object.
- e) The house was built _____ money that David borrowed from the bank.
- f) The cat narrowly escaped being run over _____ a car.
- g) When the accident happened, Sue was struck _____ flying glass.
- h) The turkey was stuffed _____ chestnuts, and was very tasty.
- i) No one knew that Peter had been involved _____ the investigation.
- j) When I left the casino, my pockets were crammed _____ money.

Advanced Language Practice

8

Rewrite each sentence so that it begins *It*.....

a) They have decided to cancel the match.

It

b) We thought it was necessary to send a telegram.

It

c) We have agreed to meet again in a fortnight.

It

d) There is a rumour that the couple are to seek a divorce.

It

e) There is confirmation of Mr Jackson's resignation.

It

f) We believe that the ship has sunk.

It

g) There was a proposal that a new offer should be made.

It

h) We didn't think it was a good idea.

It

i) We decided to try again later.

It

j) There has been a suggestion that I should take a holiday.

It

Advanced Language Practice

9

Rewrite the text using the passive where possible and so that the words underlined do not appear.

Nobody knows exactly when someone invented gunpowder. People know for a fact that the Chinese made rockets and fireworks long before people used gunpowder in Europe, which occurred at about the beginning of the thirteenth century. We generally believe that gunpowder brought to an end the 'Age of Chivalry', since anyone with a firearm could bring down a mounted knight. In fact, people did not develop efficient firearms until the sixteenth century. They used gunpowder mainly in siege cannon when people first introduced it. Later they used it in engineering work and in mining, but they found that it was extremely dangerous. Modern explosives have now replaced gunpowder, but we still use it for making fireworks, just as the Chinese did.

It is not known exactly

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