

# It's Time for TENSE



## EXERCISE 1

Use either the simple present or the present progressive of the verbs in parentheses.

- Kathy (sit, usually) \_\_\_\_\_ in the front row in class, but today she (sit) \_\_\_\_\_ in the last row.
- Diane can't come to the phone because she (wash) \_\_\_\_\_ her hair.
- Diane (wash) \_\_\_\_\_ her hair every other day or so.
- Please be quiet. I (try) \_\_\_\_\_ to concentrate.
- (Lock, you, always) \_\_\_\_\_ the door to your apartment when you leave?
- Look! It (snow) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Mike (go, not) \_\_\_\_\_ to school right now because it is summer. He (attend) \_\_\_\_\_ college from September to May every year, but in the summer he (have, usually) \_\_\_\_\_ a job at the post office. In fact, he (work) \_\_\_\_\_ there this summer.
- Right now I (look) \_\_\_\_\_ around the classroom. Ahmed (write) \_\_\_\_\_ in his book. Carlos (bite) \_\_\_\_\_ his finger nails.



## EXERCISE 2 Detectives at work

Tom and Nick are watching the house across the street. Something strange is happening. Put the verbs in brackets in the present simple or the present continuous to make correct sentences.

- TOM:** What are you staring (you stare) at?  
**NICK:** There's a man at the Johnsons' house. He doesn't live (not live) there. I wonder what he (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (do)  
**TOM:** Perhaps he (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) the Johnsons.  
**NICK:** No. They're not at home. They both (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in town. They (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) the same train as Dad every morning. It's strange. He (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) the house very carefully.  
**TOM:** Now he (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to open the gate, but it's locked. Look! He (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (climb) over the garden wall. I can't see him now.  
**NICK:** Let's follow him. I want to see what he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (do)  
**TOM:** He (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the garage. He (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) a ladder.

## EXERCISE 10

Use the present perfect progressive in the following.

- The boys are playing soccer right now. They (play) have been playing for almost two hours. They must be getting tired.
- Alex is talking on the phone. He (talk) \_\_\_\_\_ on the phone for over a half an hour. He should hang up soon. Long distance is expensive.
- I'm trying to study. I (try) \_\_\_\_\_ to study for the last hour, but something always seems to interrupt me. I think I'd better go to the library.

## EXERCISE 3

Use the simple past or the past progressive in the following.

- I (read) \_\_\_\_\_ only two chapters last week.
- I (read) \_\_\_\_\_ a book last night when you called.
- I (call) \_\_\_\_\_ John at nine last night, but he (be, not) \_\_\_\_\_ at home. He (study) \_\_\_\_\_ at the library.
- I (hear, not) \_\_\_\_\_ the thunder during the storm last night because I (sleep) \_\_\_\_\_.
- My brother and sister (argue) \_\_\_\_\_ about something when I (walk) \_\_\_\_\_ into the room.
- When I (open) \_\_\_\_\_ the package, I (find) \_\_\_\_\_ a surprise.
- He (climb) \_\_\_\_\_ the stairs when he (trip) \_\_\_\_\_ and (fall) \_\_\_\_\_. Luckily, he (hurt, not) \_\_\_\_\_ himself.
- While I (read) \_\_\_\_\_ the little boy a story, he (fall) \_\_\_\_\_ asleep, so I (close) \_\_\_\_\_ the book and quietly (tiptoe) \_\_\_\_\_ out of the room.

## EXERCISE 4

How jeans came to America Put the verbs in brackets in the past simple or past continuous.

Levi Strauss **came** (come) from a small town in the south of Germany. When he (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a young man, he (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) in love with the mayor's daughter. But the mayor and Levi's parents (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (not want) them to marry. Levi's parents (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (send) him away to New York where his brothers (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (live). They (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) tailors and they (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (teach) him to sew. In 1850, Levi \_\_\_\_\_ (take) some sailcloth from New York to San Francisco when he \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) some men. They (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (dig) for gold in the streams and rivers. The weather was bad. It (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) and the wind (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (blow). The men were cold because they (wear) (13) \_\_\_\_\_ thin trousers. Suddenly Levi (14) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) an idea. He (15) \_\_\_\_\_ (use) the sailcloth which he (16) \_\_\_\_\_ (transport) to make trousers for the men. Then he (17) \_\_\_\_\_ (sew) on metal studs to make them stronger. The men (18) \_\_\_\_\_ (love) the trousers but they (19) \_\_\_\_\_ (not like) the yellow-grey colour. So when Levi Strauss (20) \_\_\_\_\_ (open) a tailor's shop in San Francisco, he (21) \_\_\_\_\_ (import) a special thick blue material from Nimes in France. That's how jeans (22) \_\_\_\_\_ (become) blue.

## EXERCISE 5

Where did he come from? Use the words in brackets to write questions about Levi Strauss. He came from Germany.

- (Where .....from)  
**'Where did he come from?'**
- His parents sent him to America. (Where)
  - His brothers taught him to sew. (What)
  - In 1850 he set out for San Francisco. (When)
  - He met some prospectors on the way. (Who)
  - They were digging in a river. (Where)
  - They were wearing thin trousers. (What)
  - He was taking sailcloth to California. (What)
  - He made trousers from the sailcloth. (What, from)
  - The men didn't like the colour. (Why)

## EXERCISE 7

PAST SIMPLE - PAST CONTINUOUS (2)

- We \_\_\_\_\_ TV last night. (watch)
- The train \_\_\_\_\_ at 6.30. (leave)
- Mother \_\_\_\_\_ the dishes - (wash) when the phone \_\_\_\_\_ (ring)
- We \_\_\_\_\_ a nice party last Saturday. (have)
- In 55 B. C. Julius Caesar \_\_\_\_\_ to Britain. (come)
- Father \_\_\_\_\_ in his car - (wait) while mother \_\_\_\_\_ (shop)
- I couldn't come, because I \_\_\_\_\_ ill. (be)
- Just as he \_\_\_\_\_ to bed, (go) the lights \_\_\_\_\_ out. (go)
- The car suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ (stop)
- It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) when he \_\_\_\_\_ out of the window. (look)

## EXERCISE 6

PAST SIMPLE - PAST CONTINUOUS (1)

- When she \_\_\_\_\_ the dishes she \_\_\_\_\_ a big plate. (dry / drop)
- While they \_\_\_\_\_ TV, a thief \_\_\_\_\_ in. (watch / climb)
- Mother \_\_\_\_\_ dinner, while we \_\_\_\_\_ our homework. (cook / do)
- The pupils \_\_\_\_\_ cards, when their teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (play / enter).
- Mother \_\_\_\_\_ the clothes, when the lights \_\_\_\_\_ out (iron / go).
- The postman \_\_\_\_\_ the parcel, just as they \_\_\_\_\_ (bring / leave).
- Susan \_\_\_\_\_ her purse, while she \_\_\_\_\_ (lose / shop).
- We \_\_\_\_\_ a song, when our headmaster \_\_\_\_\_ (sing / enter).
- When he \_\_\_\_\_ to town, he \_\_\_\_\_ an accident (drive / have).
- Mother \_\_\_\_\_ a cake, while we \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden. (bake / play).
- As I \_\_\_\_\_ down the street, a car \_\_\_\_\_ into the shop. (walk / crash)
- While we \_\_\_\_\_ TV, a thief \_\_\_\_\_ our car. (watch / steal)
- The burglar \_\_\_\_\_ the safe, when he \_\_\_\_\_ some footsteps. (open/hear)
- Father \_\_\_\_\_ the newspaper, when the doorbell \_\_\_\_\_ (read / ring)

## EXERCISE 11

Use the present perfect or the present perfect progressive. In some sentences, either tense may be used with little or no change in meaning.

- It (snow) \_\_\_\_\_ all day. I wonder when it stops.
- We (have) \_\_\_\_\_ three major snowstorms so far this winter. I wonder how many more we will have.
- It's ten p.m. I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for two hours and probably won't finish until midnight.
- I (write) \_\_\_\_\_ them three times, but I still haven't received a reply.
- I (live) \_\_\_\_\_ here since last March.

## EXERCISE 12

What have they been doing? Complete the sentences with the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous.

- Jane has been writing (write) a letter to a magazine. She hasn't finished it yet.*
- Ben \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for his pen-knife, but he hasn't found it yet.
  - Jenny \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for the bus for half an hour, but it hasn't arrived yet.
  - Nick \_\_\_\_\_ (play) a computer game for two hours and he's still playing.
  - Mike hasn't finished painting his car yet. He \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on it for two weeks.
  - Amanda \_\_\_\_\_ (not come) home yet. She has been shopping in town since.
  - Mike's car \_\_\_\_\_ (make) strange noises. Nick and Jane have cleaned all the parts.
  - Ben has been drawing cartoons for two hours. He \_\_\_\_\_ (not finished) yet.
  - Amanda has been waiting for Jenny in town. Jenny \_\_\_\_\_ (not arrive) yet.

## EXERCISE 9

Use the simple past or the present perfect. In some sentences either tense is possible but the meaning is different.

- I (not attend) \_\_\_\_\_ any parties since I came here.
- I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to a party at Sally's apartment last Saturday night.
- Bill (arrive) \_\_\_\_\_ here three days ago.
- Bill (be) \_\_\_\_\_ here since the 22nd.
- Try not to be absent from class again for the rest of the term. You (miss, already) \_\_\_\_\_ too many classes. You (miss) \_\_\_\_\_ two classes just last week.
- Last January, I (see) \_\_\_\_\_ snow for the first time in my life.
- In her whole lifetime, she (see, never) \_\_\_\_\_ snow.
- I (know) \_\_\_\_\_ Greg Adams for ten years.
- So far this week, I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ two tests and a quiz.
- Up to now, Professor Williams (give) \_\_\_\_\_ our class five tests.
- The science of medicine (advance) \_\_\_\_\_ a great deal in the 19th century.
- Since the beginning of the 20th century, medical scientists (make) \_\_\_\_\_ many important discoveries.

## EXERCISE 8

GRAMMAR WITH LAUGHTER

Complete the jokes below by using the correct tense of the verb in brackets:

- Dad. What do you call a small brown thing with ten legs, and green eyes? I don't know, son. Why do you ask? Well, one \_\_\_\_\_ along your lettuce just before you \_\_\_\_\_ it! (crawl, eat)
- Harry \_\_\_\_\_ a large grandfather clock on his shoulder. (carry) He was delivering it to a customer. He couldn't see what was on his right hand side and he \_\_\_\_\_ over an old lady who \_\_\_\_\_ in a shop window. (knock, look) "I'm very, very sorry," said the man. "Idiot!" shouted the old woman. "Why can't you wear a watch like everybody else?"
- What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ in my apple tree last night, young man?(do) Well, one of your apples \_\_\_\_\_ down when I \_\_\_\_\_ your garden so I \_\_\_\_\_ it back for you! (fall, pass, put)
- Magic Bob was a magician on a cruise ship. Each night he took objects from the passengers and made them disappear, then reappear in strange places. The captain of the ship had a parrot which always shouted "Rubbish!" at the end of the magician's act. One day the ship \_\_\_\_\_ an iceberg and \_\_\_\_\_ (hit, sink) The magician and the parrot were the only survivors. While they \_\_\_\_\_ on a large piece of wood in the water, the parrot \_\_\_\_\_ (lie, say) "OK, genius. Where's the ship?"

- A lifeguard \_\_\_\_\_ a young lady the kiss of life when her husband \_\_\_\_\_ (give, arrive). What are you doing to my wife? I'm giving her artificial respiration. Artificial! Give her the real thing. I'll pay for it.
- Doctor, lots of my hair \_\_\_\_\_ out while I \_\_\_\_\_ it this morning. (fall, brush) Have you got anything for it? Sure. Here's a box.

- A young man was in the middle of a road with his right ear to the ground. An old lady asked him what he was listening to. A motorbike passed this spot ten minutes ago. That's incredible! How do you know that? Because it \_\_\_\_\_ me while I \_\_\_\_\_ the road and it \_\_\_\_\_ my neck. (hit, cross, break)

- How did you get that big red lump on your nose? I \_\_\_\_\_ a brose while I \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden, (smell, work) But there is no 'b' in rose. There was in this one!

## ANSWER KEY TO THE LAST EIS PAGE ACTIVITIES (DATED MARCH 16, 2015)

- KEY:** A Christmas in March : 1D 2C 3A 4D 5B 6C  
**KEY:** A Cold Day : 1A 2D 3A 4B 5D 6A 7B 8B  
**KEY:** A Day Like No Other : 1C 2B 3B 4B 5C 6C  
**CONFUSING WORDS:**
- May I have some friends over tonight?
  - We would have enjoyed the hike more, except Sheila got a blister on her foot.
  - Beatrice lay her coat and hat on the chair when she came in.
  - Marcus has done a great job keeping up with his chores this summer.
  - How do you expect me to accept this answer without any explanation?
  - Dad carefully hung the family portrait over the sofa.
  - At the park on a nice day, you can find people sitting or lying on a blanket relaxing.
  - Jackson, you may have a second piece of pie if you like.
  - Poor Grandma has lain in bed with a headache most of the afternoon.
  - Without hesitation, the king sentenced the thief to be hanged at the gallows.



english in school

Find the answers in next MONDAY issue