

## PAST PERFECT ( SIMPLE ) / PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

### 1. Write the sentences, putting one verb in each sentence into the Past Simple, and the other verb into the Past Perfect

1. When the police \_\_\_\_\_ ( arrive ), the car \_\_\_\_\_ ( go ).
2. When I \_\_\_\_\_ ( get ) to the shop, it \_\_\_\_\_ ( closed ).
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ ( eat ) everything by the time I \_\_\_\_\_ ( arrive ) at the party.
4. When we \_\_\_\_\_ ( leave ) the beach, the rain \_\_\_\_\_ ( already start )
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ ( try ) telephoning her several times but she \_\_\_\_\_ ( leave the company )
6. When I \_\_\_\_\_ ( find ) my purse, someone \_\_\_\_\_ ( take ) the money out of it.
7. The car \_\_\_\_\_ ( go ) when I \_\_\_\_\_ ( look ) into the street.
8. The patient \_\_\_\_\_ ( already die ) by the time I \_\_\_\_\_ ( see )
9. All the garages \_\_\_\_\_ ( close ) by the time we \_\_\_\_\_ ( cross ) the border.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ ( You already leave ) when the trouble \_\_\_\_\_ ( start ) ?
11. The post \_\_\_\_\_ ( not arrive ) when I \_\_\_\_\_ ( leave ) the house this morning.
12. By the time I \_\_\_\_\_ ( get ) into town, the shops \_\_\_\_\_ ( close ).

### 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.

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 NY 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.

### 3. Choose the past perfect continuous form of the verb if appropriate. If not, use the past perfect.

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 )

#### **4. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or past perfect simple.**

1. A: I'm sorry we're late. We \_\_\_\_\_ ( miss ) the train.  
B: How \_\_\_\_\_ ( that/ happen ) ?  
A: Well, I \_\_\_\_\_ ( get ) the times wrong and when we \_\_\_\_\_  
( arrive ) at the station, the train \_\_\_\_\_ ( just leave ).
2. A: \_\_\_\_\_ ( you / have ) a good meal at Hilary's ?  
B: Well no, it \_\_\_\_\_ ( be ) very embarrassing. When we  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( arrive ), we \_\_\_\_\_ ( know ) immediately that she  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( forget ) about the whole thing.  
A: So what \_\_\_\_\_ ( she / do ) ?  
B: Well, she \_\_\_\_\_ ( pretend ) that she \_\_\_\_\_ ( not/ forget )  
and \_\_\_\_\_ ( say ) that the meal \_\_\_\_\_ ( not / be )  
ready because she \_\_\_\_\_ ( get ) home from work very late.  
A: Oh no, how awful !
3. It \_\_\_\_\_ ( be ) a beautiful morning. It \_\_\_\_\_ ( rain )  
in the night and so the ground \_\_\_\_\_ ( be ) fresh and clean and it  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( smell ) wonderful. None of the Taylor family \_\_\_\_\_ ( be )  
awake though. They \_\_\_\_\_ ( all go ) to bed very late the night before. Their  
Australian cousin \_\_\_\_\_ ( arrive ) unexpectedly that evening and they  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( sit up ) talking most of the night. Although it \_\_\_\_\_ ( be )  
now 8 o'clock in the morning, they \_\_\_\_\_ ( only be ) in bed for about two hours.

#### **5. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or past perfect simple.**

James \_\_\_\_\_ ( sit ) outside the office waiting for the interview. He  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( feel ) so nervous that he \_\_\_\_\_ ( not know )  
what to do with himself. The person who \_\_\_\_\_ ( go in ) before him  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( be ) in there for nearly an hour. And she \_\_\_\_\_ ( look )  
so confident when she \_\_\_\_\_ ( go ) in. Not like James. He  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( feel ) sure that she \_\_\_\_\_ ( already get ) the job. The  
problem \_\_\_\_\_ ( be ) that he \_\_\_\_\_ ( want ) this job so much. It  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( mean ) everything to him. He \_\_\_\_\_ ( think ) about  
it such a lot before the day of the interview. He \_\_\_\_\_ ( imagine ) himself performing  
brilliantly at the interview and being offered the job immediately. But now here he \_\_\_\_\_  
( be ) feeling terrible. He \_\_\_\_\_ ( cannot remember ) all those things he  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( plan ) to say. At that moment, he \_\_\_\_\_ ( almost decide ) to get  
up and leave. He \_\_\_\_\_ ( spend ) so much time thinking about it that he  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( cannot give up ) like that. His hands \_\_\_\_\_ ( bge ) hot  
and sticky and his mouth \_\_\_\_\_ ( feel ) dry. Finally the door of the  
office \_\_\_\_\_ ( open ). The woman who \_\_\_\_\_ ( go in )  
an hour earlier \_\_\_\_\_ ( come out ) looking very pleased with herself. She  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( smile ) sympathetically at James. At that moment James \_\_\_\_\_ ( hate )  
Her. The managing director then \_\_\_\_\_ ( appear ) at the office door. " Would you like to  
come in now, Mr Davis? I'm sorry to have kept you waiting ".  
James \_\_\_\_\_ ( suddenly wish ) that he \_\_\_\_\_ ( go ) home after all.  
He \_\_\_\_\_ ( get up ), legs shaking and forehead sweating and \_\_\_\_\_ ( wonder )  
whether he \_\_\_\_\_ ( look ) as terrified as he \_\_\_\_\_ ( feel ).