

EXERCISES: PRESENT / PAST / PERFECT

1. Fill in with Present Simple or Continuous.

Sue: What 1) _____ (you/do) now?
Mark: I 2) _____ (look) through these old film magazines.
Look, here's an old picture of Jack Nicholson.
Sue: Oh, I 3) _____ (think) he 4) _____ (look) awful! And his suit 5) _____ (not/fit) him properly.
Mark: Yes, I 6) _____ (agree). And he 7) _____ (appear) to be really angry. I wonder what he 8) _____ (think) about.
Sue: He 9) _____ (be) in that new film that's on at the Odeon now, isn't he?
Mark: Yes, I saw it last night. He 10) _____ (look) very different now.
He 11) _____ (weigh) a lot more.
Sue: I 12) _____ (hope) it's a good film. I 13) _____ (see) it tonight. Stuart 14) _____ (take) me. Actually, he 15) _____ (be) very nice to me these days.
Mark: He probably 16) _____ (want) to borrow some money.
Sue: I 17) _____ (see). That explains it.

2. Fill in with Past Simple or Past Continuous.

Last night I 1) _____ (be) alone at home. I _____ (lie) on my bed and I 3) (watch)TV when I 4) _____ (hear) a strange noise. The noise 5) _____ (come) from the kitchen. _____ 6) _____ (go) downstairs, 7) _____ (pickup) a heavy vase from the table and 8) _____ (head for) the kitchen. I _____ (open) the door very slowly. Then I 10) _____ (see) someone. He 11) _____ (search) in the fridge.
I 12) _____ (be) so frightened that I 13) _____ (drop) the vase I 15) _____ (crash) onto the floor. The man 16) _____ (run)towards the door and 7) _____ (see)his face. It was my husband!

3. Fill in with Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous

Dear Sir:
I am writing to you to apply for the position of Sports Editor at your newspaper. I 1) _____ (work) as a reporter on. "The Morning Globe" for eight years, and 2) _____ (write) about every major sporting event in England in that time. I 3) _____ (also make) several important contacts within the sporting world such as football managers and race horse trainers, who 4) _____ (be) of great help to me in my career. The editor of "The World" 5) _____ (recently offer) me the post of Senior Sports Reporter, but as I 6) _____ (never / really / like) the newspaper I think I will turn it down. However, I 7) _____ (read) your newspaper since I was a young boy and I 8) (always admire) it. I 9) _____ (wait) for art opportunity like this to turn up all my working life. My editor 10) _____ (agree) to give me time off to attend an interview should you wish to meet me.

Yours faithfully, Gordon Bennett

4. Fill in with Past Simple or Present Perfect.

1. A: I (you / be) on holiday this year?
B: No, I (can/not) go, because
I (break) my leg in August and ____
..... (have) to stay in hospital.
2. A: (you/visit) the National Museum yet?
B: Yes, I (be) there three times, but I
..... (not/see) everything yet.
3. A: I'm ever so sorry, Jill, but I (bum) your dinner. Maria
..... (phone) and I (forget) about the food.
B: That's okay. I (already / eat).
4. A: I (buy) a new dress yesterday, but when I
..... (arrive) home, I (find) a hole in the seam.
B: What (you/do)? (you/take) it
back to the shop?
A: No, I (not be) into town yet. I'll do it this afternoon.
5. A: Your hair (grow) a lot since I last
..... (see) you.
B: Yes. I (want) to get it cut yesterday but I (be)
too busy.
6. A: I (never / fly) before and I'm very nervous about it.
B: I (feel) like that the first time I
..... (fly), but I thoroughly (enjoy) it.
7. A: I (lose) my glasses. (you/see) them anywhere?
B: No. Where (you/put) them?
A: I (put) them on the table a minute ago, but they're not there now.
8. A: (you / ever / meet) anyone famous?
B: Yes, I (speak) to Paul McCartney and I
..... (see) John Lennon before he was killed.

5. Fill in with Present Perfect or Past Simple.

- 1 A: (you/see) the Bruce Lee film on TV last night?
B: No. But I (see) all of his films on video already this year.
- 2 A: I (live) in Germany for five years now. I
..... (move) here in 1989.
B: I (live) in Portugal for a time, but I live in Rome now.
- 3 A: My uncle Tom (meet) Winston Churchill.
B: That's nothing ! My mum (meet) Prince Charles.
- 4 A: Where's Jane?
B: She (go) to America. She
(leave) last week.
A: Really ? Why (she/go) there?
- 5 A: My father (work) in that shop for twelve years. Then
he (get) a job in a bank.
B: He (work) at the bank for quite a few year\nnow. hasn't he?
- 6 A: How long (you/learn) Italian?
B: I (start) learning the language when I (be)
twelve.