

Past Simple / Past Continuous / Past Perfect Simple

A Choose the correct answer.

1. I heard a knock at the front door so I (went / was going) to answer it.
2. At this time yesterday, I (wrote / was writing) an essay.
3. The football season (began / was beginning) a month ago.
4. She (had graduated / graduated) from school in 2001.
5. We entered the house quietly because everyone (was sleeping / had slept).
6. By the time we (got / had got) to the cinema, the film had already started.
7. The children (were playing / played) in the garden while their parents were watching them.
8. They (had left / left) many hours before we arrived.

B Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Past Simple, Past Continuous or Past Perfect Simple.

1. They (get) to the airport as the plane was landing.
2. She wore the shoes she (buy) the previous day.
3. I fell as I (run) for the bus.
4. What she (say) when he asked her to marry him?
5. When I was a student, I (not have) much money.
6. Why she still (work) at one o'clock in the morning?
7. I was happy to see her, because we (not see) each other for years.
8. By the time we got to the shop, a long queue already (form) outside.

C Choose the sentence which is closer in meaning to the original.

1. I had already seen the film but I decided to watch it again last night.
 - a. I watched the film last night for the first time.
 - b. Last night wasn't the first time that I had seen the film.
2. The boys were playing football while it was raining.
 - a. The boys were playing football until it started to rain.
 - b. The boys played football in the rain.
3. I was writing an e-mail when our computer broke down.
 - a. Our computer broke down before I wrote an e-mail.
 - b. I had started writing an e-mail and then our computer broke down.
4. My aunt bought me a lovely gift after she had spent the summer holiday with us.
 - a. When the summer holiday was over, my aunt bought me a lovely gift.
 - b. While my aunt was spending the summer holiday with us, she bought us a lovely gift.

D Complete the passage with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Until a few years ago, no one ¹. (hear) of Harry Potter, the young wizard and hero of the children's book *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. The writer, J K Rowling, ². (already / write) several stories and books, but this was the first book that was published. She ³. (get) the idea for the story of a wizard at magic school while she ⁴. (travel) on a train to London. By the time the train ⁵. (reach) King's Cross station, she ⁶. (invent) most of the characters. When the book was published in 1997, no one ⁷. (imagine) it would be such a tremendous success, but it quickly ⁸. (become) a bestseller. While millions of young readers in many countries ⁹. (enjoy) her first Harry Potter book, J K Rowling ¹⁰. (think) of ideas for the next book in this incredibly popular series.

Past or Past Perfect Tense – Simple: Fill in the correct form.

1. Mary _____ (give) me Tony's address before she left.
2. When the boys arrived at the cinema, the film _____ (already, start).
3. Before we reached the station we saw that we _____ (lose) our way.
4. All the tickets _____ (be) sold before the concert began.
5. They took a shower after they _____ (finish) the game.
6. I asked Mr Green how many books he _____ (read).
7. Mum asked me why I _____ (not tidy) up my room.
8. Bob was sorry that he _____ (told) me the story.
9. Alan watched TV after he _____ (have) lunch.
10. The sun _____ (shine) yesterday after it _____ (be) cold for many weeks.
11. Uncle David _____ (go) to the doctor after he _____ (be) ill for a month.
12. Before the police _____ (catch) the thief, he _____ (steal) two more watches.
13. Mum once _____ (paint) a picture although she _____ (never, learn) it.
14. I _____ (not tell) my teacher that my mum _____ (help) me with my homework.
15. I _____ (be) very angry when I _____ (see) that my brother _____ (eat) my apple.
16. The bike _____ (be) much more expensive than he _____ (think) at first.
17. Dad _____ (drive) me home after I _____ (fall) into the water.
18. Marion _____ (ask) me what _____ (happen) to me last week.
19. We _____ (eat) two Big Macs before we _____ (go) home.
20. Paul _____ (not say) that he _____ (take) Albert's watch.
21. The days _____ (become) colder after it _____ (snow).
22. Martin _____ (tell) me that he _____ (be) in London.
23. I _____ (feel) great after I _____ (pass) the exam.
24. It _____ (be) Freddy who _____ (clean) the room.
25. When I _____ (get) off the bike I _____ (see) that one of those tires _____ (lose) air.
26. I _____ (be) sorry that I _____ (not be) nicer to him.
27. Nobody _____ (come) to the meeting because Angela _____ (forget) to tell them about it.
28. I know that I _____ (see) her somewhere before.
29. Because she _____ (not check) the oil for so long, the car _____ (break) down.
30. She couldn't find the book that I _____ (lend) her.
31. They never _____ (never find) where he _____ (hide) the money.
32. It was a firm that I _____ (never hear) of.
33. When she _____ (come) in we all knew where she _____ (be).
34. The lesson _____ (already start) when I _____ (arrive).
35. When I _____ (get) to the park I found out that I _____ (lose) my keys.
36. She told me that she _____ (work) in Germany.
37. When he _____ (paint) the kitchen he _____ (decide) to have a rest.
38. After I _____ (finish) the report, I saw that it _____ (be) too late.

Past Simple / Past Continuous / Past Perfect Simple – Answers

- A**
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. went | 5. was sleeping |
| 2. was writing | 6. got |
| 3. began | 7. were playing |
| 4. graduated | 8. had left |

- B**
- got
 - had bought
 - was running
 - did ... say
 - didn't have
 - was ... working
 - hadn't seen
 - had ... formed

- C**
- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. b | 3. b |
| 2. b | 4. a |

- D**
- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. had heard | 6. had invented |
| 2. had already written | 7. imagined |
| 3. got | 8. became |
| 4. was travelling | 9. were enjoying |
| 5. reached | 10. was thinking |

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