

Talking about the present

(present simple and present continuous)

Units 1–2

- 1** Complete this conversation between two ex-colleagues who have not seen each other for some time. Use the appropriate tense – present simple or present continuous – of the verbs in brackets. In some cases, both tenses are possible.

DAVE: So, Matt, how are things with you? You

(1) (look) very well.

I (2) (hear) you

(3) (do) OK for yourself.

MATT: I can't complain. I (4) (run) my own consultancy business. It's pretty hard work, but I (5) (enjoy) the challenge.

DAVE: So you (6) (not regret) leaving your safe job at the bank, then?

MATT: Not a bit. I (7) (admit) it was a bit scary to start with, but now I

(8) (realise) it's the best move I've ever made.

DAVE: That's great! I (9) (just wonder) whether you

(10) (look) for any senior staff at the moment?

MATT: Well, I could be. But you (11) (not want) to move do you?

DAVE: To be honest, Matt, I (12) (think) about it – I've been with Evergreen for nearly five years. I've got about as far as I can with them. I (13) (want) a new challenge.

MATT: Well, as you know, this is a specialised line of work and I (14) (confess), I (15) (have) difficulties finding the right calibre of person.

DAVE: I (16) (consider) applying for a job in Australia – the money's good and it would provide the challenge I (17) (need), but I (18) (not really want) to move to the other side of the world.

MATT: Well, we've worked together before Dave – I (19) (believe) we could do it again. I (20) (expect) you'd have to give Evergreen a month's notice, wouldn't you?

DAVE: Yes, probably.

MATT: Listen, Dave, I'll give this some thought over the weekend and call you back on Monday.

DAVE: That's great! I'll look forward to hearing from you.



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2A Match each of these extracts from conversations (1–10) with the most appropriate speaker (a–j).

- 1 Flights always cost / are always costing a fortune during school holidays.
 - 2 I always feel / I'm always feeling better after a good night's sleep.
 - 3 I expect / I'm expecting again. This'll be my third!
 - 4 You always take / You're always taking money from my wallet without asking.
 - 5 I feel / I'm feeling much better now, thanks.
 - 6 This weekend costs / is costing me a fortune – but it's worth it.
 - 7 We expect / We're expecting August to be warm and sunny.
 - 8 I weigh / I'm weighing 2 kilos less than I did this time last week.
 - 9 I always take / I'm always taking my camera with me when I go out.
 - 10 As you can see, I weigh / I'm weighing all the ingredients very carefully.
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| a someone on a diet | f a father to his son |
| b a pregnant woman | g someone planning a holiday |
| c a weather forecaster | h a TV chef |
| d a keen photographer | i an insomniac |
| e someone enjoying a luxury break | j a person returning to work after illness |

2B Now choose the correct or more natural form of the verbs in the extracts above. Sometimes both forms are possible.**3** Where might you hear or read the following?

- 1 The keeper's pacing up and down nervously. Smith walks slowly back, pauses, then runs up and kicks the ball. The keeper goes the wrong way. It's one-nil!
- 2 If we watch the CCTV recording, we can see exactly what happens. Armed police surround the house – there. A plain-clothes officer knocks on the front door and stands back. Now we can see the door opening...

3

Robot submarine goes missing in North Sea

- 4 I was just taking my cash out of the machine, when all of a sudden two teenagers grab the cash and my card, jump into a waiting car and...
- 5 This man is driving along a motorway when his wife rings him on his mobile phone and says 'Are you OK?'
 'Why, what's the problem?' asks the man.
 'I've just heard on the radio that there's a crazy motorist driving the wrong way along the motorway you're on.'
 'There isn't just one crazy motorist,' says the man. 'There are hundreds of them!'

Talking about the present

Units 1-2

4 Complete this story using either the present simple or present continuous form of the verbs in the box. Each verb should only be used once.

come continue go not have notice see not shine swerve walk wear

A man (1) home along a deserted country road after being at a late-night party. The road isn't busy, so the man (2) in the middle of the road. There are no street lights to illuminate the road and the moon (3) The man (4) dark clothes.

Suddenly a car (5) down the road well over the speed limit. It (6) its headlights on. At the last moment the driver (7) the man in the road and (8) to avoid him. The man hardly (9) the near miss and (10) on his way home.

How does the driver manage to see the man walking in the middle of the road?

5 Look at this cartoon strip and tell the story using the present simple and present continuous. Use the prompts given for each picture. The first picture has been done as an example.

Picture 1: Suzie / letter / post / 'Right! That's done!'

So, this girl Suzie takes a letter to the post. She drops the letter in and says to herself, 'Right! That's done!'

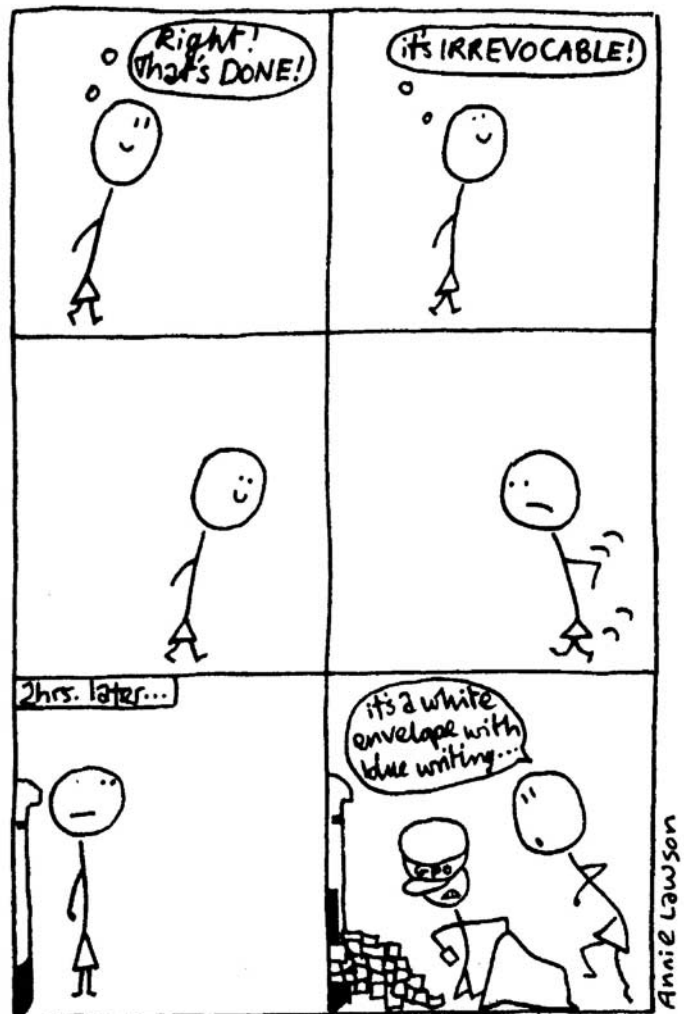
Picture 2: pleased / decisive / irrevocable

Picture 3: back home / worry / right thing?

Picture 4: Paul not bad / not end the relationship / turn round / back

Picture 5: wait / two hours

Picture 6: anxious / postman / empty box / 'It's a white envelope with blue writing.'



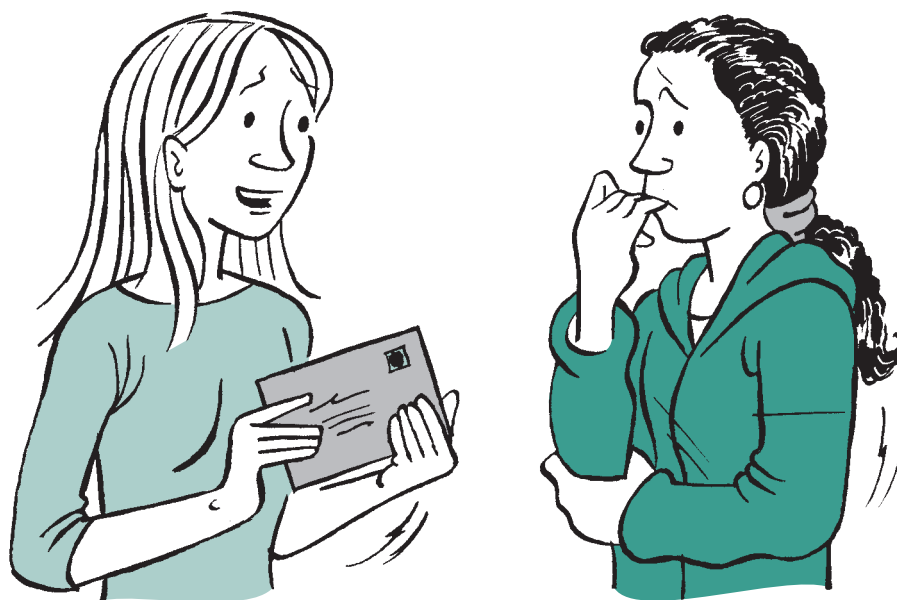
Talking about the past

(past simple and continuous, present perfect simple and continuous, past perfect simple and continuous)

Units 3–7

6 Choose the best forms of the verbs to complete this early morning conversation between two friends, one of whom is waiting for her exam results.

- ANNA: You look pretty rough. (1) Did you have / Have you had any breakfast yet?
 BEV: No – I'm not hungry.
 ANNA: What's the matter? Are you OK?
 BEV: No, I feel terrible. (2) I didn't sleep / I haven't slept a wink last night.
 ANNA: What's the problem?
 BEV: I should be getting my exam results any day now. (3) I checked / I've checked the post every morning this week. They must come today or tomorrow.
 ANNA: Calm down – you can't do anything about it now! You'll just have to be patient.
 BEV: But it's nearly three months since (4) I took / I've taken the exams.
 ANNA: That does seem a long time.
 BEV: I know, (5) I never had / I've never had to wait as long as this before. It's absolute torture.
 ANNA: I'm sure you'll be OK. (6) You revised / You've revised for months before the exams.
 BEV: I know, but geography and music aren't my best subjects. (7) I failed / I've failed every geography exam (8) I ever took / I've ever taken.
 ANNA: Look, here's the postman! Is this what (9) you've waited for / you've been waiting for?
 BEV: Yes – oh dear! Can you open the letter for me?
 ANNA: Brilliant! (10) You passed / You've passed them all! Congratulations!
 BEV: That's amazing! (11) I really thought / I've really thought I'd failed music.



Talking about the past

Units 3–7

7

Complete these news reports using either the past simple or present perfect form of the verbs in the box. Use passive verbs where appropriate.

admit agree ~~blast off~~ instruct lift off plead reach remove send vote walk out

▼ News in brief

A An unmanned rocket carrying supplies for the International Space Station (1) has blasted off from a launch site in Siberia. The spacecraft (2) on schedule at 17.45 this morning with food for the crew of the orbiting space station.

B



Over fifty food products (3) from supermarket shelves. This follows a report linking a common additive with an increased risk of cancer. Government officials (4) store managers to stop selling the products from midday today.

C Striking staff at Edinburgh Airport (5) to go back to work next Monday after negotiators (6) a last-minute deal. The 73 staff, who (7) last week in a dispute over pay (8) to accept the deal by a majority of 68 to 5.

D A 28-year-old New York woman (9) stalking British tennis star Jim Denman. Jeannie Mason (10) guilty to three charges of making threatening phone calls to Denman. Ms Mason also (11) letters to Mr Denman's wife, saying she was having an affair with the tennis player.



8A

Look at these examples of intentions and expectations. Match the beginnings (1–5) with appropriate endings (a–e).

- 1 We had intended to call in and see you on our way back, but...
 - 2 I was expecting to hear something today, but...
 - 3 They were thinking about coming on holiday with us, but...
 - 4 I was thinking of changing my car next year, but...
 - 5 I was meaning to phone you all day yesterday, but...
- a ...I never got round to it – there are always so many things to do.
 - b ...I'll wait and see what deals are available.
 - c ...it was getting late and everyone was tired.
 - d ...the phone hasn't rung all morning.
 - e ...they changed their minds when they realised we preferred sightseeing to beach parties.

Talking about the past

Units 3–7

8B Now look at the sentences again, and decide if they refer to an expectation (*E*), a future plan (*P*) or an intention which didn't happen (*I*).

9 Use your own ideas to complete the sentences.

- 1 I was thinking of replacing all my old clothes with new ones, but
- 2 I was intending to tell you the whole story, but
- 3 I was expecting to find out the results of the test this week, but

10 Look at these short conversations. Some of the speakers use incorrect tenses. Underline and correct any errors.

“

- a A: I don't think Pete's coming, do you?
 B: No, I don't. Let's go home. We've been waiting long enough.
- b A: So you hadn't had any warning about turbulence?
 B: No, I'd looked out of the window at the time – wondering where we were.
- c A: Are you all right? You look as though you've cried.
 B: I've had some bad news, but I'm OK now, thanks.
 A: Nothing too serious, I hope?
 B: My brother's been having a motorbike accident, and he's had to go to hospital.
- d A: We haven't been running out of coffee again, have we?
 B: It's not surprising, we've had a lot of visitors recently.
 A: That's true, but they haven't all drunk coffee. Quite a few of them have been asking for tea.
- e A: Have you played my guitar while I was out? One of the strings is broken.
 B: No, it wasn't me.
- f A: How many times had you been taking your driving test before you passed?
 B: I can't remember – I think I'd tried at least three times before.
- g A: Have you been a member here for a long time?
 B: Yes, I've been belonging to this club since it opened 25 years ago.
 A: That's incredible!
 B: Yes, I've seen a lot of changes in that time.
- h A: Why were you so upset after work yesterday?
 B: It's one of my colleagues. He'd talked about me behind my back for the last two weeks or more.

”

11 Complete this bad weather story using the appropriate past form of the verbs in brackets.

THE BLIZZARD



On 30th January, people in south-east England were thrilled as the first flakes of white snow (1) (begin) to fall. But within two hours, mass chaos (2) (develop). That day (3) (turn out) to be the second worst day for traffic on record, with motorists trapped in their cars on the M11 motorway for up to 11 hours.

Gary Barnicott (4) (drive) one of the first breakdown vehicles to arrive on the scene when police (5) (reopen) the motorway. His first priority was to deal with a vehicle stranded near one of the junctions.

‘The guy (6) (be) in his car all night with a wife and three young children and (7) (be) also diabetic. He (8) (have) the car heater on all night and the car (9) (run out) of fuel and (10) (lose) all battery power. I (11) (start) his car for him, (12) (accompany) him to a service station and (13) (check) he was OK.’

Barnicott (14) (go) back to work, helping other drivers, many of whose cars (15) (break down) for quite basic reasons such as overheating or flat batteries.

‘It (16) (take) a while to reach people because of the conditions,’ he says. ‘I (17) (stop) regularly to check if people (18) (need) help. I (19) (prepare) flasks of coffee and tea, which I (20) (give) to people who (21) (not eat or drink) anything for hours. Actually, I was pleasantly surprised because people who (22) (live) near to that stretch of the motorway (23) (come out) of their homes early to give refreshments to motorists who (24) (wait) in their cars all night.’

Talking about the past

Units 3–7

- 12** Read this description of how someone made the decision to change their lifestyle. Choose the correct or more natural forms of the verbs. Sometimes both options are possible.

In the end, the decision to quit my nine-to-five job in the city and take up painting (1) hadn't been / wasn't particularly difficult. I (2) had been thinking / had thought about it quite seriously for several years. For one thing, I (3) got / was getting more and more weary of the train journey to and from Paris every day. When (4) I'd started / I started the job in the mid-1990s, I'd (5) really enjoyed / really been enjoying getting up early, cycling to the station and reading novels on the train. But after a few years, the novelty (6) had worn off / had been wearing off. Then, three years ago, (7) I broke / I'd broken my leg in a cycling accident and (8) had / was having to work from home for a few weeks. Not surprisingly, I (9) didn't miss / hadn't missed my daily journey.

Anyway, on the Saturday before I was due to go back to work, my girlfriend and I (10) decided / had decided

to go out for the day. It was the first time we (11) went / had been for a walk since the accident.

After just a few minutes my leg (12) hurt / was hurting so much that we (13) sat down / were sitting down on a bench. Just in front of us a middle-aged man (14) sat / was sitting painting the village scene. We got into conversation with the man who, it turned out, (15) had only recently given up / was only recently giving up a very responsible job as a civil servant. He (16) had to / had had to take time off work through stress and at that point he (17) decided / was deciding to quit the rat race

for good and turn his hobby into a full-time occupation. He (18) assured / was assuring us that he (19) did not regret / hadn't regretted his decision, and that, although he was not as well-off as he had been before, he (20) lived / was living a much more balanced and enjoyable life.

By the time I got home (21) I decided / I had decided to write my letter of resignation and I (22) even finished / had even finished the first chapter of the novel (23) I was planning / I'd been planning to write since my early twenties.



- 13** Write about an important decision in your life and describe the process leading up to it. Use the first sentence suggested below and incorporate some of the phrases from the box into your description.

In the end, it was actually a very easy / difficult decision to make.

I'd been thinking about... ever since the time when...
 I'd been telling myself... for some time.
 The situation was becoming...
 I'd asked various people for their advice and they'd all...
 What finally persuaded me was...

Past and present
 (mixed present and past forms)

Units 1–8

14 Look at the underlined verb tenses in this phone conversation between a mother and her daughter. Correct any errors. If the verb is correctly used, write ✓.

SARAH: Hi Mum, I'm sorry (1) I hadn't phoned earlier in the week, but (2) I've been really busy.

MOTHER: (3) I'm wondering if everything was OK.

SARAH: The thing is, something pretty exciting (4) happened. Charlie's manager (5) was telling him to apply for a job in Washington.

MOTHER: Washington? You mean you're moving to America?

SARAH: No, Washington near Newcastle in the north of England.

MOTHER: Oh, that's OK. But I thought you (6) were starting a new job at the local school next term.

SARAH: Well, that (7) has been the idea, but this Washington job would be perfect for Charlie. It's exactly what he (8) is wanting to do. (9) He'd been getting more and more fed up with the job (10) he's doing at the moment. One of his friends, an ex-colleague, who (11) has moved to the Washington office about a year ago, (12) is thinking that Charlie is exactly the kind of person (13) they're looking for. But the problem is that Charlie's in two minds about living in that part of the country. He (14) still tries to decide whether he (15) wants the job or not.



MOTHER: (16) That's sounding very interesting for Charlie, but what about you?

SARAH: I'm sure I'll find work in a school in Washington, but I'm not going to start worrying about that now because Charlie (17) doesn't even fill in the application form yet!

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------|----|-------|
| 1 | <u>didn't phone</u> | 10 | ..... |
| 2 | ✓ | 11 | ..... |
| 3 | ..... | 12 | ..... |
| 4 | ..... | 13 | ..... |
| 5 | ..... | 14 | ..... |
| 6 | ..... | 15 | ..... |
| 7 | ..... | 16 | ..... |
| 8 | ..... | 17 | ..... |
| 9 | ..... |  |  |

Past and present

Units 1–8

- 15** Alison has recently left her job and retrained as a teacher. Complete this email to an ex-colleague using the appropriate forms of the verbs in brackets. You will need to use these tenses: present simple and continuous, past simple and continuous, present perfect simple and continuous, past perfect simple and continuous. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

From: Frayn, Alison
Date: 17th March
To: John Hodges (Email)
Subject: hello

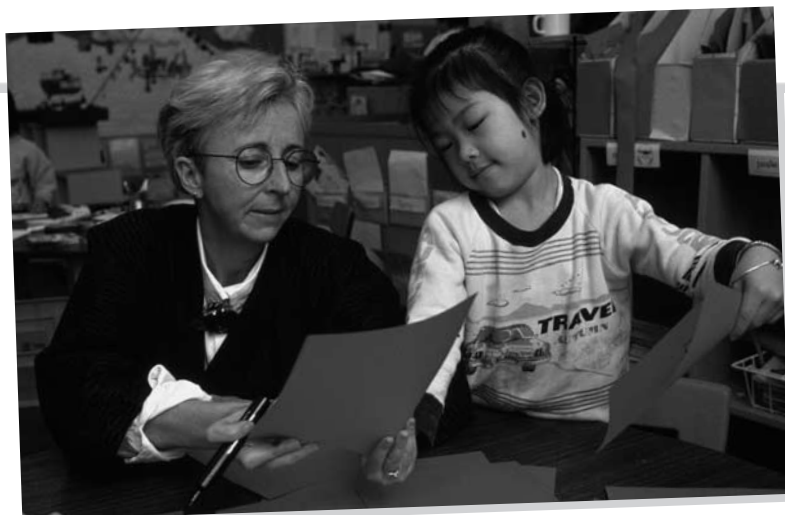
Hi John

I just wanted to let you know how I (1) (get on) since I (2) (leave) last year. Well, first of all, I (3) (finish) the teacher-training course at the college last July. I must admit, I (4) (find) it quite hard work. Most of the other students (5) (be) twenty-somethings¹ who (6) (just graduate). They (7) (be) very good colleagues, and they (8) (treat) me as a kind of elderly aunt!

Since September I (9) (look for) work. I (10) (phone up) about seven agencies and (11) (reply) to more than twenty job adverts. At the beginning of January, my husband (12) (find) me my first pupil – a young Korean girl who now (13) (come) to the house for lessons three times a week.

Since then I (14) (begin) to get responses to my phone calls and letters. One agency (15) (send) me to Marseille once a week for three hours to teach a middle-aged Frenchman. That (16) (work) very well as we both (17) (have) the same big company background, and the business language he (18) (need) is the kind of language I (19) (use) every day until recently. So, as you can see, it (20) (all start) to happen at last.

Do phone or email to let me know how things are with you and your family.
 Best wishes
 Alison



¹ *twenty-something* = colloquial term for someone in his/her twenties