


Review of past tenses Page 103

1 Look at these extracts from the recording in Listening and answer the questions about the underlined verb forms.

- a He was very impressed by the meal I'd made for him.
- b As a child I used to watch my parents preparing meals at home ...
- c ... and I would imagine myself cooking something delicious.
- d First I went to catering college, in the autumn of 2001.
- e I was working very long hours when I was there.
- f I'd been thinking of going to Paris for some time before I actually went.

Which verb form do we use:

- 1 for actions or events in the past?
- 2 to talk about something that was going on when something else happened?
- 3 when we are already talking about the past and we want to talk about an earlier event?
- 4 to talk about how long something went on up to a point in the past?
- 5 to talk, without using time expressions, about things we did regularly in the past but don't do anymore?
- 6 like 5, but only for actions, not states?

2  Correct the mistakes in these sentences written by exam candidates. In some cases more than one answer is possible.

- 1 He started walking back to the shop where he left his bike the day before.
- 2 People saw that Anita cried, but nobody could help her.
- 3 The street party was something that we organised for weeks before the holidays.
- 4 I used to be a member of a swimming club for about ten years.
- 5 We were very surprised as we knew that the house was empty for nearly thirty years.
- 6 I listened, and it was clear that someone walked across the floor.
- 7 When you look back, people didn't used to worry about what they ate.
- 8 I wanted to go to Egypt because I used to decide that I wanted to be an archaeologist.

3 Choose the correct form of the verb (A, B or C) to complete each sentence.

- 1 I don't think I Holly before last week's party.
A was meeting B met C 'd met
- 2 My aunt and uncle had no children of their own, so they a baby girl last year.
A adopted B used to adopt C were adopting
- 3 When I got home last night I felt quite tired because I at the club all evening.
A used to dance B 'd been dancing C danced
- 4 Sean with somebody else all last summer, but now he's my sister's boyfriend.
A used to go out B had gone out C was going out
- 5 I was born in July 1983. My mother a widow only two months earlier.
A became B had become C was becoming
- 6 When I arrived at Micky's house, everyone a film on TV.
A watched B used to watch C was watching

4 Use the given verb form to complete the sentences.

- 1 This morning I saw my cousin Emilia while I ... (past continuous)
- 2 Nowadays I go on holiday with friends, but when I was younger I ... (used to)
- 3 My stepbrother was upset and his eyes were red because he ... (past perfect continuous)
- 4 I made friends with lots of people when I ... (past continuous)
- 5 When we were kids, we often went to birthday parties where we ... (would)
- 6 I had a date with Zyta, but I was late and by the time I arrived she ... (past perfect)



2 Eating and meeting

Grammar

Past tenses

- 1 Complete the text with the correct alternatives. (Part 1 of this story is in Student's Book Unit 2.)

Meeting at the station (Part 2)

As I ran down the road I hardly **(1)** *noticed / was noticing* that it **(2)** *snowed / was snowing*, and when I got to the station I **(3)** *kept / was keeping* on running until I reached the platform where I hoped to catch the train Sophie was leaving on. But it **(4)** *already went / had already gone*.

Furious with myself for missing her, I was about to leave the station when suddenly there was an announcement saying that so much snow **(5)** *fell / had fallen* this side of Upton Junction, the next station, that the line was blocked in both directions. Which meant that Sophie's train **(6)** *didn't go / wasn't going* anywhere, at least for a while.

I remembered there **(7)** *used to be / was being* a bus to Upton, but when I asked about it at the information office they told me it no longer went there. It **(8)** *was seeming / seemed* there was no way I could catch up with Sophie, and I left the station. But right outside I spotted a row of bicycles for hire.

Fortunately I **(9)** *'d been / 'd been going* to a cashpoint earlier and I had plenty of money on me, so I chose a bike and a few seconds later I **(10)** *would pedal / was pedalling* as fast as I could in the direction of Upton.




It was mostly uphill and the weather was very cold. By the time I **(11)** *was riding / 'd been riding* for 15 minutes my hands were frozen solid. There was both ice and snow on the road, and on one particularly sharp bend I completely lost control of the bike and **(12)** *crashed / was crashing* into a wall.

The front wheel was bent and I **(13)** *realised / was realising* immediately that I would have to continue on foot, but I could also see I **(14)** *cut / 'd cut* my leg quite badly in the accident. Leaving the damaged bike behind, I slowly and painfully **(15)** *walked / used to walk* the last four miles, eventually arriving in the small town of Upton at around ten o'clock. Just then I heard the train approaching.

I ran as fast as I **(16)** *could / 'd been able to* down the brightly lit but empty street that **(17)** *was leading / led to* the station, but seconds before I reached the platform the whistle blew and the train pulled out. With a feeling of sadness, I **(18)** *'d been watching / watched* its lights disappear into the darkness, and then stepped into the waiting room to get warm.

As I **(19)** *had done / did so*, a friendly voice to my left said 'Hi'. It was Sophie. 'I saw you from the train,' she said, 'so I **(20)** *was deciding / decided to* get off and wait for you. There's another train due here at eleven. Shall we get that one together?'



- 2  Correct the mistakes in these sentences written by exam candidates, using suitable past tenses. In sentences 3 and 9 more than one answer is possible.

- When I got dressed, I found I lost my wallet with more than 100,000 yen in it.
- In the letter, Marta was asking him to come to Caracas at the weekend.
- When emails didn't exist, I was writing letters to friends.
- I went downstairs but I didn't realise that my husband started painting the walls.
- The boss of the restaurant didn't used to eat there, but that day was special.
- When I climbed the cliff next to the beach just now I fell and I hurt my leg.
- When she got off the bus, she wondered why Luisa decided to settle in that horrible town.
- The plants in his garden were including vegetables and flowers.
- After she had living in Singapore for three years, she had saved enough money to go to university.
- When Julie came home, she saw that all her jewellery disappeared.