

New
Learners'
English Grammar
and Composition

8

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*(Revised Wren's English Grammar Series &
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PREFACE

Learners' English Grammar and Composition is an activity-based series specially designed to meet the needs of pupils in Indian schools today. This graded series, comprising eight books, is intended for classes 1 to 8 and leads up to Learners' English Grammar and Composition for classes 9 and 10, which has been in use since 1990.

The present series is largely based on a study of the current trends in school syllabi and recent developments in the treatment of English grammar and composition. The main objective of this series is to equip learners with the ability to use English effectively in real-life situations. Special attention has been paid to the points of structure and usage which are usually problematic to non-native speakers of English. The major focus is rightly on the area of verbs, which is the most important aspect of grammar and is evidently the most difficult for Indian learners to master.

The series aims at simplicity of language and simplicity of treatment. The grammatical explanations in particular have been made very clear and easy to understand. The material has been graded with the utmost care. There are various types of exercises, most of which are judiciously geared towards mixed-ability classes. The units on comprehension and writing skills set out to help learners to put their knowledge of grammar to more practical use and widen their communicative ability.

It is hoped that this need-based series, enlivened by full-colour illustrations, will be liked by both pupils and teachers, and found suitable for use in CBSE- and ICSE-affiliated schools as well as State Board schools.

I am indebted to numerous grammarians and writers on methodology, mainly to P.C. Wren, H. Martin, John Eastwood, Michael Swan, Raymond Murphy, Adrian Doff and Penny Ur, whose books have been of great help. I acknowledge the assistance of my sons, Koteswara Rao and Murali Mohana Rao, in organizing the material.

I am inexpressibly grateful to Messrs S.Chand And Company Pvt. Ltd., whose confidence in me has been a stimulus to this kind of projects.

Dr. N.D.V. PRASADA RAO

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1

Parts of Speech : Review

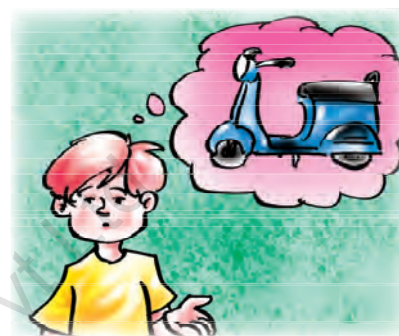


There are eight word classes or **parts of speech** in English. They are: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections.

There is also another word class called **determiners**.

A **noun** is a word which names or refers to a person, animal, place, thing or idea. The words **student, Saroja, dog, city, Nagpur, computer, fridge, joy, truth** and **beauty** are all nouns.

A **pronoun** is a word (such as **I, me, you, we, he, him, she** and **they**) which is used in place of a noun.



A **verb** says what somebody or something does (e.g. **eat**) or what happens (e.g. **die, rain**). A few verbs like **be, remain** and **have** describe a state or condition.

An **adjective** is a word which describes or says more about a noun or pronoun, e.g. **clever, tall, hungry, interesting**.

A **determiner** is a word which comes before a noun and limits the meaning of the noun or shows which person or thing is being referred to. Determiners include **the, a, an, this, that, these, those, all, some, any, each, every, my, your, our, his, their, one, two**, etc. Most of the determiners (almost all except **a/an** and **the**) are often treated as adjectives in traditional grammars.

An **adverb** is a word that mainly describes or gives more information (**how, when, where**, etc.) about a verb. (e.g. He writes **neatly**. He came **yesterday**. Sit **there**.)

An adverb sometimes gives more information about an adjective (e.g. You are **quite** right.) or another adverb (e.g. He walks **very** slowly.)

A **preposition** is a word like **on, in, at, with, for, under, from** and **to**, used before a noun or pronoun to show place, time, method, etc.

A **conjunction** is a joining word such as **and, but, yet, or, when, because** and **though**. It joins words or groups of words.

An **interjection** is a word spoken suddenly to express a strong feeling. **Hurrah, hello, bravo, oh, ah, gosh, ouch, shh, wow**, etc. are interjections.

Some words belong to more than one word class or part of speech. Study the following :

- (a) Would you give me some **water**? (noun)
(b) We **water** the plants daily. (verb)

2. (a) We saw the film on **video**. (noun)
(b) They **video** such programmes. (verb)
3. (a) He fell **off** the ladder. (preposition)
(b) The thief ran **off**. (adverb)
4. (a) This is a **fast** train. (adjective)
(b) He walks **fast**. (adverb)
(c) Muslims **fast** during Ramzan. (verb)
(d) He broke his **fast** yesterday. (noun)

Remember that, as in the above sentences, sometimes we can't know what part of speech a word is unless we see what work it is doing in a sentence.

Exercise I...



Name the parts of speech of the words in bold. Write your answer below the passage.

Mr Vijay Joshi **was** a businessman in **Nagpur**. One day, **while** he was driving **along** a country road, **he** saw an **old** man carrying a **heavy** bag.

"I'll give **you** a lift to the **town**," said Mr Joshi.

"**Oh!** How kind you are!" said the old man, **and immediately** he got **into** the **car**.

After a few minutes Mr Joshi found that the old man was still holding the heavy bag in his hands. He was surprised.

"Why are you **still** carrying the bag?" he said. "You can put it on the seat."

The old man **replied**, "You have been kind enough to give me a ride. I don't like to make you carry my bag too."

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. was | _____ | 9. town | _____ |
| 2. Nagpur | _____ | 10. oh | _____ |
| 3. while | _____ | 11. and | _____ |
| 4. along | _____ | 12. immediately | _____ |
| 5. he | _____ | 13. into | _____ |
| 6. old | _____ | 14. car | _____ |
| 7. heavy | _____ | 15. still | _____ |
| 8. you | _____ | 16. replied | _____ |



Exercise II...



What parts of speech are the words in bold? Write your answers on the lines.

- 1. The **phone** is ringing. _____
- 2. I **phone** my sister every day. _____
- 3. We **play** cricket on Sundays. _____
- 4. The children are at **play**. _____
- 5. **Today** is Friday. _____
- 6. I will see him **today**. _____
- 7. He works **hard**. _____
- 8. There were some **hard** questions in the exam. _____
- 9. The **cook** is ill. _____
- 10. I usually **cook** at weekends. _____
- 11. The boys ran **round** the tree. _____
- 12. I turned **round** and went home again. _____
- 13. The postman starts his **round** at 9 o'clock. _____
- 14. I have a pain in the **back**. _____
- 15. I'll come **back** in five minutes. _____
- 16. Have you closed the **back** door? _____

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2

Classifications of Nouns, Pronouns, Adjectives and Adverbs : Review



Nouns

Nouns can be divided into :

1. **Common nouns** (= names given in common to all people, places and things of the same kind)
e.g. boy, teacher, city, river, month
2. **Proper nouns** (= names of particular people, places or things)
e.g. Suresh, Mr Brown, Allahabad, the Ganga, October
3. **Abstract nouns** (= names of feelings, ideas or qualities)
e.g. love, anger, beauty, wisdom, kindness
4. **Collective nouns** (= names of groups of people or collections of things)
e.g. crowd, team, flock, bunch, fleet

There is another classification of nouns : “**countable nouns**” (= names of things which can be counted) and “**uncountable nouns**” (= names of things which cannot be counted). Nouns like **pen, chair, house** and **tree** are countable. Nouns like **milk, sugar, rice, gold, freedom** and **happiness** are uncountable. The next unit deals with this subject in detail.

Pronouns

There are seven kinds of pronouns :

1. **Personal pronouns**
I, you, he, we, they, me, him, us, etc.
2. **Possessive pronouns**
mine, his, hers, ours, yours, theirs
3. **Reflexive pronouns**
myself, yourself, himself, herself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves
4. **Demonstrative pronouns** (used to “point out” somebody or something)
this, that, these, those
5. **Interrogative pronouns** (used in asking questions)
what, which, who, whom, whose
6. **Relative pronouns** (used to introduce clauses as in : “This is the boy **who** helped me”.)
that, which, who, whom



7. **Pronouns of quantity** (and number)
many, much, some, few, all, both, each, either, neither, etc.

Adjectives

There are mainly five kinds of adjectives :

1. **Adjectives of quality** (or Descriptive adjectives)
They show the quality of a person or thing.
a **kind** person, a **large** city, an **honest** man, **dirty** clothes
2. **Demonstrative adjectives**
Like demonstrative pronouns, they “point out”.
this book, **these** pencils, **that** man, **those** houses
3. **Possessive adjectives**
my, your, his, her, our, their
4. **Interrogative adjectives**
which, what, whose (e.g. **Which** pen is yours ?)
5. **Adjectives of quantity** (and number)
They include all the numerals (**one, two, second, fifth**, etc.) and also many words like **all, both, some, many, much, few, each, every**, etc.
six apples, **all** men, **some** books, **every** player

Note : In modern grammars, adjectives of types 2 to 5 are often called **determiners**.

Adverbs

An adverb is a word which modifies or adds to the meaning of a verb. Sometimes an adverb modifies an adjective or another adverb.

She types **quickly**. (modifies the verb “types”)

You are **quite** right. (modifies the adjective “right”)

He spoke **very** well. (modifies the adverb “well”)

The commonest types of adverb are :

1. **Adverbs of manner** (These answer the question “How?”)
quickly, angrily, carefully, fast, well, etc.
2. **Adverbs of place** (These answer the question “Where?”)
here, there, near, everywhere, etc.
3. **Adverbs of time** (They answer the question “When?”)
now, then, today, yesterday, soon, etc.



4. **Adverbs of frequency** (They answer the question "How often?")
often, sometimes, always, never, twice, etc.
5. **Interrogative adverbs** (question words)
where, when, why, how, etc.

Exercise ...



A. Say whether the following nouns are **common, proper, abstract or collective** :

- | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. Nepal | 2. country | 3. bunch | 4. flower | 5. fun |
| 6. friendship | 7. neighbour | 8. Kamala | 9. sorrow | 10. gang |

B. Classify the following pronouns :

- | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1. him | 2. himself | 3. mine | 4. which | 5. this |
| 6. ourselves | 7. who | 8. they | 9. those | 10. us |

C. Classify the following adjectives :

- | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. our | 2. clever | 3. many | 4. narrow | 5. attractive |
| 6. what | 7. your | 8. that | 9. which | 10. all |

D. Classify these adverbs :

- | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. well | 2. sometimes | 3. now | 4. clearly | 5. there |
| 6. when | 7. fast | 8. where | 9. near | 10. often |



3

Countable and Uncountable Nouns



Countable Nouns

Countable nouns are things that can be counted. They have singular and plural forms, e.g. a cup, two cups, one pen, five pens.

Countable nouns can be used with **a/an** or **one**, as in the above examples.

Singular countable nouns cannot be used alone (without **a/an, the, this, that** or a possessive like **my, your, his**, etc.)

He is eating **an** apple.

(**not** : "He is eating apple".)

Plural nouns can be used alone.

I like apples.

We can use **many** and **a few** with plural countable nouns.

There aren't **many** biscuits left.

I have written **a few** letters today.

We cannot use **much** and **a little** with countable nouns.

We can use **some, any** and **a lot of** with plural countable nouns.

I want **some** grapes, please.

Did you buy **any** stamps?

I've got **a lot of** friends here.

Uncountable Nouns

Uncountable nouns are things that cannot be counted. They do not have a plural form, e.g. milk, water, rice, music.

We cannot say "milks" "waters" "two rices", "some musics," etc.

Uncountable nouns are not normally used with **a/an** or **one**. We cannot say "a milk", "a water", "a rice". "one music," etc.

Uncountable nouns can be used alone (without **the, this, that, some, my**, etc.)

He is eating rice.

I love music.

We can use **much** (not **many**) and **a little** (not a few) with uncountable nouns.

There isn't **much** bread left.

We've got **a little** petrol.

We can use **some, any** and **a lot of** with uncountable nouns too.

I want **some** butter, please.

Have you got **any** money?

There is **a lot of** sugar in the tin.

As you have noticed, some words go with both countable and uncountable nouns, while some words go with any one kind of nouns.

Uncountable nouns mainly refer to

(a) **substances**, e.g.

sugar, rice, wheat, flour, oil, water, tea, butter, soup, ice, air,
cotton, wool, plastic, gold, steel

(b) **abstract things** (= things we cannot touch), e.g.

beauty, cleverness, knowledge, progress, freedom, joy, fun,
luck, laughter, anger, patience, courage, honesty

Note that the following nouns, most of which are countable in Indian languages, are uncountable in English :

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| advice | work | furniture | paper |
| information | homework | luggage | weather |
| news | housework | poetry | thunder |
| scenery | traffic | bread | equipment |

Be careful not to use these nouns with **a/an** or in the plural.

Wrong : I have **a news** for you.

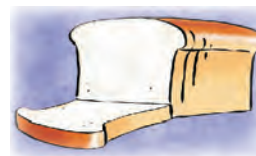
Right : I have **some news** for you.

Wrong : We had a lot of **luggages**.

Right : We had a lot of **luggage**.

We use a countable noun like **piece, bottle, kilo** etc. + **of** with an uncountable noun when we need to say how much **bread, milk, oil**, etc.

a piece/loaf of bread, a bottle of milk, a can of oil, a glass of water, a cup of coffee, a jar of jam, a packet of sugar, a kilo of wheat, three metres of cloth, ten litres of petrol, two spoonfuls of sugar, fifteen grams of gold, a piece of advice, two pieces/sheets of paper



In some cases, English has a separate uncountable noun and a separate countable noun referring to the same area of meaning.



Countable

a job
a journey
a poem
a meal
a loaf
climate

Uncountable

work
travel
poetry
food
bread
weather

Some nouns which are normally uncountable are used countably with a different meaning :

Countable

a daily **paper** (= newspaper)
an iron (for pressing clothes)
a glass of orange juice
my **glasses** (= spectacles)
a rubber (for removing pencil marks)
There's **a hair** on your collar.
(= one single hair)
We'd like **two teas** and **one coffee**.
(= two cups of tea and one cup of coffee)

Uncountable

some paper to write on
iron and steel (a metal)
a window made of **glass**

Rubber is elastic.
Comb your **hair**. (not **hairs**)
(= all the hair on your head)
I don't drink **tea** or **coffee**.

Exercise I...



Use the patterns "What!" or "What a/an!" to make exclamations from the following, as shown in the examples :

Examples

terrible weather
terrible climate

What terrible weather!

What a terrible climate!

1. hard work
2. hard job
3. fresh loaf
4. fresh bread
5. heavy luggage
6. heavy suitcase

7. delicious food
8. delicious meal
9. pleasant journey
10. pleasant travel
11. beautiful poem
12. beautiful poetry

Exercise II..



Most of these sentences have mistakes in them. Correct them, or if there is no mistake, put a tick ().

Examples

Let me give you **an advice**.

some advice./a piece of advice.

We have terrible weather.

()

1. I've bought a bread0.
2. He gave us valuable advices.
3. She has heard bad news.
4. Shall we buy a jam?
5. I'll have a coffee.
6. There's a news that might interest you.
7. There seemed to be a lot of traffics.
8. I've got an information for you.
9. What beautiful scenery!
10. She has a very long hair.
11. They have sold all their furniture.
12. The boys are doing homeworks.
13. I have an important work to do.
14. I must copy this letter; can you give me a paper?
15. I usually read a paper of some sort on the train.
16. We didn't have many luggages; we had only two bags.
17. Could I have a few water, please?
18. I've done several works today.
19. I would like to read Tagore's poetries.
20. Did you have a good weather on your trip?



4 Articles (1)



The is called the definite article and **a/an** the indefinite article.

A is used before a word that begins with a consonant sound even if the first letter is a vowel. **An** is used before a word that begins with a vowel sound even if the first letter is a consonant, e.g. **a** horse, **a** year, **a** unit, **a** European, **a** one-rupee note, **an** hour, **an** honest man, **an** MP, **an** X-ray.

We use **a** (or **an**) to talk about a person or thing for the first time. When we mention the same person or thing again, we use **the**.

Read the following example :

While **a woman** was standing at **the bus stop**, **a boy** seized **the purse** in her hand and tried to escape. I caught **the boy** and made him return **the purse** to **the woman**.

Look at the first sentence again. The speaker puts **a** before “woman” and “boy”. Which woman? Which boy? It is not clear which ones, because this is the first time they are talked about. **The** is used before “bus stop”, because the listener knows which bus stop: there is only one bus stop in the village. Again **the** is used before “purse”. Which purse? The purse in her hand. The phrase “in her hand” makes clear which purse is meant. In the second sentence, **the boy** means the boy just talked about; **the purse** means the purse already mentioned; **the woman** refers to the woman already known to the listener. **A woman** and **a boy** are indefinite, while **the woman**, **the boy**, **the bus stop** and **the purse** are definite.

As in the above examples, **the** is used when it is clearly understood **who** or **what** is meant. Here are further examples:

The house on the corner is for sale. (The words **on the corner** tell us which house. There is only one house on the corner.)

Have you finished with **the novel** I lent you? (The words **I lent you** define which novel is meant.)

Let's go to **the park**. (= the park we usually go to)

Please close **the door**. (= the door of this room)

Can I speak to **the manager**? (= the manager of this shop)

She has gone to **the doctor**. (= her usual doctor)



A/an is used when it is not clear which one is meant. Compare the first three sentences above with the following, where **a** is used before the same nouns :

There is **a house** for sale. Would you like to buy it?

(It is not clear which house is meant. There are lots of houses.)

You can borrow **a novel**. (The speaker has got a number of novels. Any one of them.)

Let's find **a park**. (The speaker has no particular park in mind. It is an unfamiliar town.)



We say **the sun, the moon, the sky, the earth**. The use of **the** suggests that everyone knows them: they are things of which there is only one in our world.

We naturally use **the** before superlatives (e.g. **the best** pen, **the richest** man) and ordinals like first, second, third etc. (e.g. **the first** page, **the tenth** lesson).

We also use **the**

- (a) before a singular noun to refer to a whole class or group in general statements

The dog is a faithful animal. (**The dog** = all dogs; dogs in general)

My favourite flower is **the rose**. (**The rose** = all roses)



- (b) before an adjective (without a noun) to talk about groups of people

the old (= old people), **the young** (= young people), **the rich** (rich people), **the sick**, **the unemployed**

- (c) with musical instruments

He can play **the flute**.

(But we play **football/tennis/cricket** etc. No article is used with the names of games.)

A/an is used (apart from its use when mentioning a person or thing for the first time)

- (a) in the sense of "one"

I bought **a pineapple** and **a dozen** bananas.

- (b) to talk about price, speed etc.

Potatoes are twenty rupees **a kilo**.

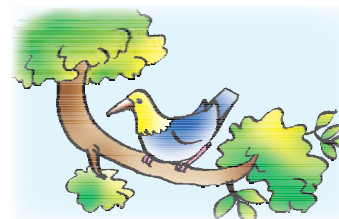
The car was going at 90 kilometres **an hour**.

- (c) to classify, to say what somebody or something is

My uncle is **an** engineer.

Chaitanya is **a** clever boy.

"What bird is that?" — "**A** cuckoo, isn't it?"



Remember that **a/an** is used only with countable nouns (= things we can count), not with uncountable nouns (= things we can't count, e.g. milk, sugar, gold, honesty).



Exercise ...



Fill in the blanks with **a, an** or **the**.

1. That's _____ rat, not _____ mouse.
2. She is practising _____ violin.
3. Can you wait _____ minute?
4. This is _____ best cinema in _____ town.
5. _____ girl standing there is my cousin.
6. _____ cloth is Rs 90 _____ metre.
7. This is _____ easiest book on _____ subject.
8. There is, as you know, _____ house on _____ corner. _____ house is for sale.
9. When is _____ Chief Minister arriving?
10. I go to my hometown twice _____ month.
11. _____ pencil on _____ table is Gopal's.
12. Don't sit on _____ floor. It is dirty.
13. Mahesh is _____ clever boy.
14. I like listening to _____ guitar.
15. My uncle is _____ MLA.
16. Open _____ window by _____ door.
17. We ought to help _____ blind.
18. _____ dog is _____ faithful animal.
19. I wrote to him but _____ letter didn't reach him.
20. Yesterday I bought _____ shirt and _____ sweater. _____ shirt was cheap but _____ sweater was expensive.



Read your answers to one another in pairs or in groups. Discuss any mistakes you have made.

5

Articles (2)



Uncountable and plural countable nouns take no article when used with a general meaning. They take **the** when used with a particular meaning. Compare the following :

- Sugar** is bad for your teeth. (sugar in general)
- Could you pass me **the sugar**? (= the sugar on the table)
- I'm interested in **history**. (General meaning)
- I'm studying **the history** of Britain. (Particular meaning)
- Children** like sweets. (General meaning)
- Where are **the children**? (= our children)
- Oranges** have Vitamin C. (General)
- The oranges** I got yesterday were very sour. (Particular)



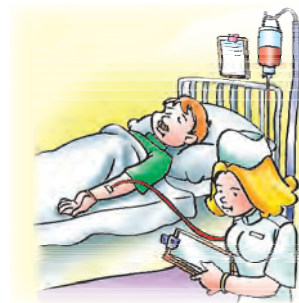
We use no article with **school, college, university, church, prison, hospital** and **bed** when we are thinking of their normal purpose or use. We use an article when the reference is to the building or thing.

- Padma has gone to **school**. (*i.e.* to learn; as a pupil)
- The school** is quite near. (the school = the school building)
- Peter goes to **church** every Sunday. (*i.e.* to pray)
- I'll meet you at the church. (The church is just a meeting place.)
- Suresh is in **prison**. (as a prisoner)
- I went to **the prison** to see Suresh. (as a visitor, not as a prisoner)
- After the accident he was taken to **hospital**. (as a patient)
- There is **a hospital** near the station. (reference to the building)
- I usually go **to bed** before ten. (*i.e.* to sleep)
- The bed** was very uncomfortable. (the bed = a particular bed)



Note these fixed expressions :

- be at school, go to school** (as a pupil)
- be at college/university, go to college/university** (as a student)
- be at/in church, go to church** (to pray)
- be in prison, go to prison** (as a prisoner), **released from prison**; also **be in jail**, etc.
- be in hospital, taken to hospital** (as a patient)



Note also :

(do work) **in class**

be at home, go/ come home

be at work (= working, at the workplace), **go to work, leave work**

be in town, go to town, leave town (one's hometown or a town visited regularly)

But we go to **the temple** or **the mosque** (to pray), to **the office** (to work), to **the cinema** or **the theatre** (for entertainment).



You should also note the following common expressions (related to time and movement), where no article is used :

go **by bike, by car/road, by taxi, by bus, by train/rail, by ship/boat, by sea, by plane/air** (But we can say: go **on a/the bicycle, in a/the car, in a taxi, on the bus/train/boat/plane** etc.)

go **on foot** (= walking)

at dawn/daybreak/sunrise/noon/midday/dusk/night/twilight/midnight

(But we say: **in the morning/the afternoon**, etc.)



We do not normally use an article with the names of meals (**breakfast, lunch**, etc.).

I had bread for **breakfast**.

They are at **lunch**.

Dinner is at eight.

But we use **a/an** if there is an adjective before **breakfast, lunch**, etc. We use **the** if there are modifying words (a phrase or clause) after them.

I had a quick **breakfast**.

How was **the lunch** at that hotel?

The dinner we had last night was very nice.

We use no article with the names of languages.

I'm learning **English**.

They speak **Bengali** at home.

(But we say **the English language, the Bengali language**, etc.)



We usually say **the radio**, but **television** (without an article).

He was listening to **the radio** and I was watching **television** (or **TV**).

But :

Would you turn off **the television**? (= the television set)

They haven't got **a TV**. (= TV set)

We use **the** before **Internet** (or the informal word **Net**).

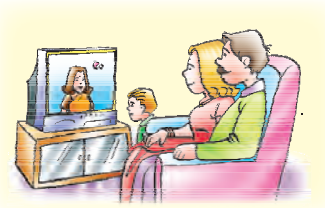
She has been using **the Internet** all afternoon.

Many proper nouns do not have an article. A few take **the**.

Names of people have normally no article (e.g. **Rahim, Mary, Krishna Mohan**). But we use **the** with plural names referring to a whole family, e.g. **the Menons, the Lals, the Wilsons**.

We use **the** with these kinds of place names :

- (a) oceans and seas, e.g. **the Pacific** (Ocean), **the Black Sea**
- (b) rivers, e.g. **the Ganga, the Nile**
- (c) canals, e.g. **the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal**
- (d) mountain groups, e.g. **the Himalayas, the Alps**
- (e) island groups, e.g. **the West Indies**
- (f) deserts, e.g. **the Sahara**



We usually use no article with continents (e.g. **Europe**), countries (**India**), cities, towns (e.g. **Kolkata**), etc. Exceptions are names which include words like **republic, kingdom, union** or **states** e.g. **the Irish Republic, the United Kingdom** (or **the UK**). **Note** also **the Netherlands**.

Lakes and single mountains do not have **the**, e.g. Lake Michigan, Everest.

Exercise I...



Fill in the blanks with **the** or **cross ()** (= no article).

1. I like _____ music, but I didn't like _____ music we heard last night.
2. _____ school is over at four o'clock.
3. He was seriously ill, so he was taken to _____ hospital.
4. Can you look after _____ children for us?
5. When you go to _____ United States you have to cross _____ Atlantic.
6. _____ salt is used to flavour _____ food.



7. Would you pass _____ salt, please?
8. _____ dinner will be served soon.
9. _____ dinner they gave us was very delicious.
10. Suresh has gone to _____ work. He will return _____ home at seven.
11. Most doctors say _____ chocolate is bad for you.
12. _____ chocolate she gave me tasted very strange.
13. The book is about _____ history of _____ United Kingdom.
14. We can learn a lot from _____ history.
15. _____ life would be very difficult without _____ electricity.
16. _____ life of these insects is very short.
17. _____ thief was sent to _____ prison for six months.
18. _____ criminal's wife went to _____ prison to see her husband.
19. He can speak _____ Urdu fluently.
20. Anil is ill, so he hasn't gone to _____ school today.
21. Mr Chandran went to _____ school to speak to his son's teacher.
22. _____ dogs make good pets.
23. Why are you sitting on _____ bed?
24. I usually go to _____ bed at ten.
25. Tom goes to _____ church on Sundays.
26. The tourists went to _____ church to look round it.
27. We have come by _____ bus, not by _____ train.
28. Can you show _____ Netherlands in this map?
29. _____ Panama Canal joins _____ Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.
30. _____ River Thames flows through _____ London.

Exchange your answers with your partner and discuss the mistakes if any.

Exercise II...



Fill in the blanks with **a/an**, **the** or **cross ()** (= no article).

1. There was _____ fly in _____ milk, so I didn't drink it.
2. Is there _____ water on _____ moon?
3. He can play _____ flute.



4. There is _____ green paint on _____ door.
5. _____ hotel we stayed at was _____ very nice hotel.
6. I didn't watch _____ news on _____ TV but I heard it on _____ radio.
7. _____ earthworm helps _____ farmers.
8. We enjoyed _____ delicious lunch at _____ Guptas' house.
9. Is there _____ milk in _____ fridge?
10. _____ Himalayas are _____ largest mountains in _____ world.
11. Last night we saw _____ interesting TV programme about _____ USA.
12. _____ woman who lives next door can speak _____ English fluently.
13. _____ money cannot buy _____ happiness.
14. What about _____ money you owe me?
15. "Where are _____ children?" "They have gone to _____ school."
16. _____ history repeats itself.
17. I am studying _____ history of _____ English language.
18. "Where is _____ cheese?" "I've eaten it."
19. We normally go to _____ cinema once _____ month.
20. _____ paper used to be made from _____ cotton and _____ linen cloth. Most of _____ paper we use today is made from _____ wood-pulp.

Compare your answers with your partner's and, if there are any differences in the answers, decide which answers are correct before your teacher checks them.



6

More about Determiners



Determiners can be arranged in six classes according to the type of nouns (countables and uncountables) with which they are used.

- (a) Those which are used only with singular countables and uncountables
this, that (e.g. **this** book, that **bread**)
- (b) Those which are used only with singular countables
a/an, every, each, either, neither (e.g. **every** boy, **each** school)
- (c) Those which are used only with plural countables
these, those, many, several, few, both (e.g. **these** girls)
- (d) Those which are used only with uncountables
much, little (e.g. **little** sugar)
- (e) Those which are used with plural countables and uncountables
enough, all, a lot of (e.g. **enough** biscuits, **enough** milk)
- (f) Those which can be used with any noun (singular or plural, countable or uncountable)
the, some, any, no, my, his (and other possessive adjectives)

In the previous units you learnt about the uses of **a/an** and **the** in detail. Now you are going to learn about the uses of some more determiners which are often troublesome to Indian learners.

some, any

We use **some** in positive sentences.

There are **some** eggs in the fridge.

I would like **some** bread.

We use **any** in negative sentences and in most questions.

There aren't **any** eggs in the fridge.

Is there **any** bread left ?

We use **some** in questions when we expect the answer "yes", for example, in requests and offers.

Did you buy **some** stamps ? (I expect you bought some stamps when you went to the post office.)



Will you please get me **some** bread ? (request)

Can you lend me **some** CDs ? (request)

much, many, a lot of

In modern English, **much** and **many** are mostly used in negatives and questions. In positive sentences **a lot of** is more usual.

Is there **much** rice left ?

There isn't **much** rice left.

How **much** money have you got ?

How **many** tickets do we need ?

Do you have **many** friends here ?

I don't have **many** friends.

There is **a lot of** sugar in the tin.

We have **a lot of** blank CDs.

little, a little, few, a few

A little and **a few** are positive ideas. **A little** means "a small amount, but some"; **a few** means "a small number, but some".

Give him **a little** rice.

I would like **a few** grapes.

Without **a**, the words **little** and **few** are rather negative. They mean "not much/ many", "almost no".

There is **little** rice left.

He has **few** friends. (= almost no friends)

The little means "not much, but all of it". Similarly, **the few** means "not many, but all of them".

He lost **the little** money he had saved.

The few mangoes we have are all rotten.



Exercise ...



Fill in the blanks choosing the correct words from the brackets.

1. I saw _____ Americans at the museum. (some, any)
2. You mustn't eat _____ sweets. (some, any)
3. Please give me _____ water. (little, a little)
4. Would you please give me _____ help ? (some, any)
5. She has _____ interesting ideas. (some, any)
6. I don't have _____ blank CDs. (some, any)
7. I need _____ minutes to get ready. (few, a few)
8. Unfortunately, he had _____ friends. (few, a few)
9. A _____ learning is a dangerous thing. (few, little)
10. Would you like _____ orange juice ? (some, any)



7 Verb Forms



An English verb has the following forms :

- (a) base form (e.g. **speak, write, laugh**)
- (b) **-s** form (e.g. **speaks, writes, laughs**)
- (c) **-ing** form (e.g. **speaking, writing, laughing**)
- (d) past tense (e.g. **spoke, wrote, laughed**)
- (e) past participle (e.g. **spoken, written, laughed**)

In most verbs the past tense and the past participle are the same. They are formed by adding **-ed** to the base, e.g.

laugh → laughed work → worked

Other verbs are “irregular”. They make their past tense and past participle by a change of vowel or consonant or by a change of both.

Base Form

ring
send
fly

Past Tense

rang
sent
flew

Past Participle

rung
sent
flown

A few verbs (like **put, cut, hit, cost**) have only one form.

Put the CD on the top shelf. (base form)

I **put** the CD on the top shelf yesterday. (past tense)

I have **put** the CD on the top shelf. (past participle)

A list of irregular verbs is given in the next unit.

Below are the forms of tenses.

Simple Present Tense

I write.
We write.
You write.
He writes.
They write.

Present Continuous Tense

I am writing.
We are writing.
You are writing.
He is writing.
They are writing.

Present Perfect Tense

I have written.
We have written.
You have written.
He has written.
They have written.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

I have been writing.
We have been writing.
You have been writing.
He has been writing.
They have been writing.

Simple Past Tense

I wrote.
We wrote.
You wrote.
He wrote.
They wrote.

Past Continuous Tense

I was writing.
We were writing.
You were writing.
He was writing.
They were writing.

Past Perfect Tense

I had written.
We had written.
You had written.
He had written.
They had written.

Simple Future Tense

I will/ shall write.
We will/ shall write.
You will write.
He will write.
They will write.

Future Continuous Tense

I will/ shall be writing.
We will/ shall be writing.
You will be writing.

He will be writing.
They will be writing.



Negative and Question Forms

Positive

You write.
 He writes.
 She is writing.
 You have written.
 She has written.
 He wrote.
 She was writing.
 She had written.
 He will write.
 He will be writing.

Negative

You do not write.
 He does not write.
 She is not writing.
 You have not written.
 She has not written.
 He did not write.
 She was not writing.
 She had not written.
 He will not write.
 He will not be writing.

Question

Do you write?
 Does he write?
 Is she writing?
 Have you written?
 Has she written?
 Did he write?
 Was she writing?
 Had she written?
 Will he write?
 Will he be writing?



Short forms

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| I am writing. | → | I'm writing. |
| He is writing. | → | He's writing. |
| They are writing. | → | They're writing. |
| He has written. | → | He's written. |
| You have written. | → | You've written. |
| He will write. | → | He'll write. |
| They do not write. | → | They don't write. |
| He does not write. | → | He doesn't write. |
| She is not writing. | → | She isn't writing. |
| They are not writing. | → | They aren't writing. |
| I am not writing. | → | I'm not (not : I amn't) writing. |
| She has not written. | → | She hasn't written. |



| | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| They have not written. | → | They haven't written. |
| She did not write. | → | She didn't write. |
| She had not written. | → | She hadn't written. |
| He was not writing. | → | He wasn't writing. |
| They were not writing. | → | They weren't writing. |
| She will not write. | → | She won't write. |
| She will not be writing. | → | She won't be writing. |

We often use short forms when we speak or when we write to friends.

Exercise I...



Name the tense of each of the verbs in the following sentences.

- I have read the newspaper on the Internet. _____
- We watched the video of the tennis match. _____
- We have been waiting here since 10.30. _____
- The train leaves at 6.45. _____
- Mohan is repairing the TV at the moment. _____
- The phone rang when I was having a bath. _____
- I'll ring you as soon as I arrive. _____
- I'll be waiting for you outside. _____
- Have you ever seen the Taj Mahal? _____
- I felt tired because I had walked over ten kilometres. _____
- We will be late if we don't hurry. _____
- He said he had already seen the film. _____
- My eyes are watering because I've been cutting onions. _____
- Will you be passing the post office when you go out? _____
- They never found where he had hidden the money. _____



Exercise II...



Turn the following into (a) negative sentences, (b) questions.

Example

He repairs computers.

(a) *He doesn't repair computers.*

(b) *Does he repair computers?*

1. They have bought a car.

(a) _____

(b) _____

2. It's raining.

(a) _____

(b) _____

3. She acts on TV.

(a) _____

(b) _____

4. They arrived on time.

(a) _____

(b) _____

5. He was joking.

(a) _____

(b) _____

6. She will come again.

(a) _____

(b) _____

7. She has been cooking.

(a) _____

(b) _____

8. They had left by that time.

(a) _____

(b) _____

9. They sell CDs.

(a) _____

(b) _____

10. He visited them.

(a) _____

(b) _____



8

Irregular Verbs



Base Form

arise
 awake
 be
 bear
 beat
 become
 begin
 bend
 bet
 bid (=offer money)
 bid (=say a greeting
 or order)
 bind
 bite
 bleed
 blow
 break
 breed
 bring
 broadcast
 build
 burn
 burst
 buy
 catch
 choose
 come
 cost
 creep
 cut

Past Tense

arose
 awoke
 was, were
 bore
 beat
 became
 began
 bent
 bet, betted
 bid
 bid, bade

 bound
 bit
 bled
 blew
 broke
 bred
 brought
 broadcast
 built
 burnt, burned
 burst
 bought
 caught
 chose
 came
 cost
 crept
 cut

Past Participle

arisen
 awoken
 been
 borne
 beaten
 become
 begun
 bent
 bet
 bid
 bidden

 bound
 bitten
 bled
 blown
 broken
 bred
 brought
 broadcast
 built
 burnt, burned
 burst
 bought
 caught
 chosen
 come
 cost
 crept
 cut

Base Form

deal
dig
do
draw
dream
drink
drive
eat
fall
feed
feel
fight
find
flee
fly
forbid
forget
forgive
freeze
get
give
go
grind
grow
hang (clothes, etc.)
have
hear
hide
hit
hold
hurt
keep
kneel
know

Past Tense

dealt
dug
did
drew
dreamt, dreamed
drank
drove
ate
fell
fed
felt
fought
found
fled
flew
forbade
forgot
forgave
froze
got
gave
went
ground
grew
hung
had
heard
hid
hit
held
hurt
kept
knelt, kneeled
knew

Past Participle

dealt
dug
done
drawn
dreamt, dreamed
drunk
driven
eaten
fallen
fed
felt
fought
found
fled
flown
forbidden
forgotten
forgiven
frozen
got
given
gone
ground
grown
hung
had
heard
hidden
hit
held
hurt
kept
knelt, kneeled
known



Base Form

lay
lead
lean
leap
learn
leave
lend
let
lie
light
lose
make
mean
meet
mow
pay
put
read
ride
ring
rise
run
say
see
seek
sell
send
set
sew
shake
shine
shoot
show
shrink

Past Tense

laid
led
leant, leaned
leapt, leaped
learnt, learned
left
lent
let
lay
lit, lighted
lost
made
meant
met
mowed
paid
put
read
rode
rang
rose
ran
said
saw
sought
sold
sent
set
sewed
shook
shone
shot
showed
shrank, shrunk

Past Participle

laid
led
leant, leaned
leapt, leaped
learnt, learned
left
lent
let
lain
lit, lighted
lost
made
meant
met
mown, mowed
paid
put
read
ridden
rung
risen
run
said
seen
sought
sold
sent
set
sewn, sewed
shaken
shone
shot
shown, showed
shrunk

Base Form

shut
sing
sink
sit
sleep
slide
smell
speak
speed
spell
spend
spill
spin
spit
split
spoil
spread
spring
stand
steal
stick
sting
stink
stride
strike
swear
sweep
swim
swing
take
teach
tear
tell
think

Past Tense

shut
sang
sank
sat
slept
slid
smelt, smelled
spoke
sped, speeded
spelt
spent
spilt, spilled
spun
spat
split
spoilt, spoiled
spread
sprang
stood
stole
stuck
stung
stank, stunk
strode
struck
swore
swept
swam
swung
took
taught
tore
told
thought

Past Participle

shut
sung
sunk
sat
slept
slid
smelt, smelled
spoken
sped, speeded
spelt
spent
spilt, spilled
spun
spat
split
spoilt, spoiled
spread
sprung
stood
stolen
stuck
stung
stunk
strode, stridden
struck, stricken
sworn
swept
swum
swung
taken
taught
torn
told
thought



Base Form

throw
tread
understand
wake
wear
weave
weep
win
wind
write

Past Tense

threw
trod
understood
woke
wore
wove, weaved
wept
won
wound
wrote

Past Participle

thrown
trodden
understood
woken
worn
woven, weaved
wept
won
wound
written

Exercise ...



25 verbs are hidden in this word square. They are in the simple past tense. Can you find all the verbs? They go across or down. Ring the words as shown. (They are all irregular verbs.)

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| r | o | w | o | n | h | e | a | r | d |
| a | g | r | e | w | b | p | a | t | r |
| n | o | s | d | e | o | a | f | s | e |
| g | t | a | i | b | u | i | l | t | w |
| h | i | t | d | i | g | d | e | o | s |
| i | s | h | u | t | h | r | w | o | c |
| c | a | u | g | h | t | o | l | d | h |
| m | i | r | o | w | r | o | t | e | o |
| e | d | t | f | o | u | g | h | t | s |
| t | o | e | f | t | k | e | p | t | e |

9

Tenses : Talking about the Present and the Past (1)



Simple Present Tense

The simple present is used :

1. for habitual or repeated actions

I **take** bread every morning.

He usually **reads** till midnight.

We **go** to Bengaluru twice a year.

2. for general or eternal truths (= things that are always true)

The moon **goes** round the earth.

Oil **floats** on water.

Oranges **grow** in warm countries.

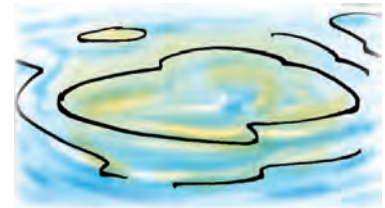
3. for things that stay the same for a long time

They **live** in Chennai.

His father **works** in a bank.

4. to tell a story in a dramatic way

The police **arrive** and **fire** into the air. The mob **run** off.



Remember :

I/ You/ We/ They **help**.

He/ She/ It **helps**.

You help. —————> You do not help. Do you help?

He helps. —————> He does not help. Does he help?

do not —> don't

does not —> doesn't



Exercise I...



Fill in the blanks with the simple present forms of the verb **want**. (You have to use **do/does** in negatives and questions.)

| | Positive | Negative | Question |
|----|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | He _____ it. | He _____ it. | _____ he _____ it ? |
| 2. | You _____ it. | You _____ it. | _____ you _____ it ? |
| 3. | She _____ it. | She _____ it. | _____ she _____ it ? |
| 4. | They _____ it. | They _____ it. | _____ they _____ it ? |

Exercise II...



Below are six general truths. Complete the sentences with the **simple present** of suitable verbs.

1. The earth _____ round the sun.
2. The stars _____ at night.
3. Water _____ at 100 degrees Centigrade.
4. Frogs _____ both on land and in water.
5. Rain _____ from the clouds.
6. Cows _____ grass.

Exercise III...



A. Write three sentences saying how you spend your leisure time on Sundays. Use the simple present. (You may use **usually/often/sometimes**.)



B. Now look at your partner's sentences and say what he does.

Example

Anil usually plays cricket on Sunday afternoons.



Present Continuous Tense

We use the present continuous to talk about things that are happening now:

My sister **is cooking** (now).

It **isn't raining**, look!

Why **are** you **sitting** on my cycle?



We can use this tense to talk about something that is happening about this time but not exactly at the time of speaking.

Mr Robert **is writing** a novel. (He may not be doing so at this moment.)

Don't take that book. My brother **is reading** it.



The following verbs are not normally used in the continuous tense:

- verbs of the senses, e.g. **see, hear, smell, taste, notice**
- verbs of thinking, e.g. **think, suppose, believe, know, understand, remember, forget, agree**
- verbs of feeling, e.g. **want, wish, like, love, dislike, hate**
- verbs of appearing, e.g. **appear, look, seem**
- verbs of possessing, e.g. **have, possess, own, owe, belong**
- other verbs like **contain, consist, cost, weigh**

Such verbs are normally used in the simple present.

Wrong

This apple **is tasting** sour.
I **am liking** the film.
He **is agreeing** with me.
He **is having** a car.
The bag **is weighing** 40 kilos.

Right

This apple **tastes** sour.
I **like** the film.
He **agrees** with me.
He **has** a car.
The bag **weighs** 40 kilos.



Exercise IV...



Fill in the blanks with the **present continuous** of the verbs in the box.

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|----------|
| speaking | sleeping | fly | playing | barking |
| listening | shining | suffering | making | watching |

1. She _____ to music.
2. Please be quiet. The baby _____.
3. The children _____ football.
4. (On the phone) May I know who _____?
5. The birds _____ up in the air.
6. The sun _____ brightly.
7. The boys are excited. They _____ a horror film.
8. Mother is in the kitchen. She _____ tea.
9. Sanjay _____ from malaria.
10. The dogs _____ at the stranger.



Exercise V...



Put the verbs in brackets into the **simple present** or **present continuous**.

1. Look! It _____ again. (rain)
2. I _____ the Internet nearly every day. (use)
3. They _____ two cars. (have)
4. Hurry up! Your friends _____ for you. (wait)
5. We _____ on holiday to Bengaluru every summer. (go)
6. The box _____ nine kilos. (weigh)
7. Don't disturb Anita, she _____ her homework. (do)
8. Chocolate _____ a lot of sugar. (contain)
9. Your bag _____ me. Can you move it? (hurt)
10. Over three million Muslims _____ the holy city of Mecca every year. (visit)





Simple Past Tense and Present Perfect Tense

The simple past is used for an action completed at some time in the past. The time is mentioned or understood in the context.

I **phoned** him yesterday.

Mother Teresa **died** in 1997.

My father **bought** this camera in Japan.

The simple past is sometimes used for habits or repeated actions in the past.

When I was in Chennai I **went** to the beach nearly every evening.

The present perfect is used for a past action when we can see the result of the action now.

The taxi **has arrived**. (It is now here.)

Have you **made** the tea? (Is the tea ready now?)

I **have finished** my work. (Now I am free.)

She **has passed** the driving test. (Now she can drive.)

The present perfect tells us about the past and the present, *i.e.*, it links the past with the present. The simple past says only about the past. Compare the two sentences above with the following :

I **finished** my work at four.

She **passed** the driving test last month.

The simple past is used in these sentences because the time expressions “at four” and “last month” separate the actions from the present.

The present perfect is also used :

1. for an action that happened only a short time ago (with **just**)

He **has just gone** out.

I **ve just had** breakfast.

2. for an action that happened at some indefinite past time (with expressions which mean “at any time up to now” like **ever, never, yet, already, so far**)

Have you ever **visited** the Red Fort?

I **have never seen** the Prime Minister.

Has the postman **come** yet?

I **have already read** the book.



3. for an action beginning at some time in the past and going on up to the moment of speaking (with **since** + starting point of time and **for** + length of time, e.g. "**since** 7.30", "**for** two hours")

He **has been** ill since Monday. (She is still ill.)

I **have known** him for a long time.

They **have lived** in Hyderabad for six years. (= They still live in Hyderabad.)

Compare the above sentence with this :

They **lived** in Hyderabad for six years. (= They don't live in Hyderabad now.)

Also compare the following :

He **has gone** to Mumbai. (=He is in Mumbai now.)

He **has been** to Mumbai. (He went to Mumbai but now he is back.)

Note

Use the simple past, not the present perfect, with expressions of finished time like **yesterday**, **last night**, **last week**, **at 10.30**, **ten minutes ago**, **two years ago**, **in 2004**, etc. and with the question word when.

Wrong : I **have seen** him a few minutes ago.

Right : I **saw** him a few minutes ago.

Wrong : When **have** you **bought** this sari?

Right : When **did** you **buy** this sari?



Remember :



Simple Past

He helped. → He did not help. Did he help?

He did not help. → He didn't help.





Present Perfect

I/ You/ We/ They have helped.

He/ She/ It has helped.

She has spoken.

She has not spoken. Has she spoken?

I have spoken.

I've spoken.

She has sung.

She's sung.

He has not gone.

He hasn't gone.

Exercise VI...



Fill in the blanks with the **simple past** of the verbs in brackets.

Once a missionary in Africa was going to a village. Suddenly he _____ (hear) a roar and _____ (shake) with fear. In a moment there _____ (be) a lion in front of him.

The missionary _____ (fear) that the lion was going to kill him. He _____ (kneel) down and _____ (begin) to pray. When he _____ (open) his eyes he _____ (see) a miracle. He _____ (find) that the lion was praying too.

Now he _____ (think) that there was nothing to fear. He _____ (say) to the lion, "I am praying to be saved. But what are you praying for?"

"I always pray before eating," _____ (reply) the lion.

Exercise VII...



Work in pairs. Tell your friend what you did last summer. Take turns. (You have to use the simple past.)

Example

I went to Nagpur and spent a week with my cousin.



Exercise VIII...



A. Write a sentence saying what you have just done.

Example :

I have just finished the work.

B. Write two sentences saying what you have already done.

Example :

I have already read the newspaper.

C. Write two sentences saying what you haven't done yet.

Example :

I haven't had breakfast yet.



Exercise IX...



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

1. I _____ (read) the book last week.
2. I _____ (read) the book and can tell you about it.
3. They _____ (live) in Kolkata for five years. They may live there for a year more.
4. They _____ (live) in Kolkata for five years. They are living in Delhi now.
5. He _____ (go) to Kochi. He is returning tomorrow.
6. I _____ (not buy) a new computer yet.
7. I _____ (buy) this bag in Mumbai.
8. You _____ (get) a phone call five minutes ago.
9. I _____ (find) the letter you were looking for. Here it is.
10. The train _____ (leave) at 5.10.



10

Tenses : Talking about the Present and the Past (2)



Present Perfect Continuous Tense

The present perfect continuous is used for an action that began at some time in the past and is still continuing. We often use this tense with **How long**, **since**-/**for**-phrases, **all day**, **all afternoon**, etc.

How long **have** you **been working** here?

I **have been working** here for six years.

We **have been waiting** for the bus since four o'clock.

The phone **has been ringing** for the past five minutes.

The baby **has been crying** all morning.

Remember that **since** is used with a point of time and **for** with a period (e.g. **since** 9.30, **since** 2003, **for** two hours, **for** five years).

This tense is also used for an action already completed. The results of the action happen in the present.

I'm very tired. I **'ve been playing** tennis.

"Why are your clothes dirty?" "I **'ve been cleaning** the storeroom."

Have you **been working** in the garden? (You look tired and your shoes are dirty.)



Exercise I...



Complete these sentences with the **present perfect continuous** of the verbs in the box.

watch rain play do water wait clean

- The boys _____ computer games for over an hour.
- You _____ TV all afternoon.
- The road is wet; it _____.
- "Why are your clothes wet?" "I _____ the plants."
- I _____ the flat for two hours.
- You look tired. What _____ you _____?
- I'm sorry I'm late. _____ you _____ long?



Exercise II...



Work in groups of three or four. Make up questions using **how long** with the present perfect continuous. Take turns to ask and answer the questions. If it is not possible to work in groups, work alone. Here are some ideas to help you.

learn English/Hindi/Tamil/etc.

live here/in this city/etc.

study in this school

use this book

do this grammar exercise

Examples

Question

How long have you been learning English?

How long have you been living here?

Answer

For eight years.

Since 2002.



Past Continuous Tense and Past Perfect Tense

The past continuous is used for an incomplete action in the past. It describes an action as going on at some past time.

"I phoned you at 7.30 and there was no answer." "I **was having** a shower at that time."

The TV screen went blank when we **were watching** the news.

She burnt her fingers when she **was making** tea.

When Tom **was cycling** home, a tyre punctured.



As in examples 2, 3 and 4 above, the past continuous is often used in combination with the simple past. It shows that an action was continuing at a time when a shorter action happened.

The past perfect is used for an action completed before a certain point in the past or before another action happened.

By 8 o'clock I **had done** my homework.

When we reached the station the train **had left**. (= We couldn't catch the train.)

I listened to the CD that Suresh **had lent** me.

She asked where you **had gone**.



Exercise III...



Match each sentence with its correct meaning.

1. They packed when we came.
2. They were packing when we came.
3. They had packed when we came.
- (a) They were in the middle of packing when we came.
- (b) They packed before we came.
- (c) We came and then they packed.

Exercise IV...



Put the verbs in brackets into the **simple past** or **past continuous**. (You have to use both the tenses in each sentence).

1. He _____ (bite) his tongue while he _____ (eat) puris.
2. I _____ (fall) off the chair while I _____ (hang) the picture.
3. We _____ (watch) a video when he _____ (come).
4. I _____ (hurt) my thumb while I _____ (hit) the nail.
5. Gopal _____ (have) a nice dream when the alarm _____ (go) off.

Exercise V...



Put the verbs in brackets into the **simple past** or **past perfect**. (You have to use both the tenses in each sentence).

1. When I _____ (finish) my exam, I _____ (check) my answers for mistakes.
2. It _____ (be) a good story, but I _____ (hear) it before.
3. They _____ (eat) everything when I _____ (arrive) at the party.
4. When we _____ (complete) the forms we _____ (hand) them in.
5. By the time we _____ (get) to the theatre we _____ (miss) the start of the movie.

Note : The following exercises cover both units 9 and 10.

Exercise VI...



The chart below shows how long Ashok and his friends have been saving and how much they have saved so far. (It is December.) Write sentences using the **present perfect continuous** and **present perfect** tenses, as shown in the example.

| Name | How long | How much |
|---------|--------------|----------|
| Ashok | February | Rs 9000 |
| Kishore | 4 months | Rs 20000 |
| David | January | Rs 11000 |
| Salim | 5 months | Rs 24000 |
| Peter | March | Rs 30000 |
| Mahesh | about a year | Rs 8000 |

Example

Ashok has been saving since February, but he has saved only Rs 9000. Kishore has been saving for four months and he has already saved Rs 20000.

Exercise VII...



Choose the correct verb form to fill in the blanks.

- The shop _____ at nine o'clock every morning. (open/opens/is opening)
- That house _____ to my uncle. (belong/belongs/is belonging)
- I _____ that film last week. (saw/have seen/had seen)
- Look! The headmaster _____. (come/comes/is coming)
- My father _____ yet. (didn't arrive/hasn't arrived/hadn't arrived)
- It _____ since eight o'clock this morning. (is raining/was raining/has been raining)
- The boy _____ chocolates. (wants/is wanting/is wants)
- I _____ him for five years. (know/have known/am knowing)
- You _____ when I came to your house. (are sleeping/were sleeping/slept)
- Mrs Brown isn't at home; she _____ to visit some friends. (went/has gone/had gone)
- The door-bell _____ for the past ten minutes. (is ringing/has rung/has been ringing)
- He _____ a large family. (have/has/is having)
- I told him that I _____ the keys. (forgot/have forgotten/had forgotten)
- When I _____ my dinner I went to bed. (had/have had/had had)
- I _____ my arm, so I can't play in the match. (injured/have injured/had injured)
- We _____ all day for his phone call. (are waiting/have been waiting/were waited)
- I _____ a bath when the phone rang. (am having/was having/have)
- I thanked him for what he _____. (did/has done/had done)
- The town _____ its appearance completely since 2000. (is changing/changed/has changed)
- I fell asleep while I _____ TV. (watched/was watching/has been watching)