

# Infinitive and Gerund

## Infinitive

### After an adjective

Example: The new computer is really *easy to use*.

### After certain verbs (with to)

Example: He *refused to pay* the bill.

- |           |                     |           |                |
|-----------|---------------------|-----------|----------------|
| • afford  | • expect            | • manage  | • refuse       |
| • agree   | • fail              | • mean    | • want         |
| • appear  | • help (also        | • offer   | • wish         |
| • arrange | without <i>to</i> ) | • plan    | • would like   |
| • beg     | • hesitate          | • prepare | • would love   |
| • choose  | • hope              | • pretend | • would prefer |
| • decide  | • learn             | • promise |                |

## Gerund

### As the subject of a clause

Example: **Cycling** is good for your health.

### After a preposition

Example: I did my homework *before going out*.

### Verbs followed by Gerund

Example: I *enjoy cooking*.

- |              |               |          |              |
|--------------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| • admit      | • can't stand | • finish | • practise   |
| • advise     | • deny        | • keep   | • suggest    |
| • allow      | • dislike     | • mind   | • waste time |
| • avoid      | • enjoy       | • miss   | / money      |
| • can't help | • fancy       | • permit |              |

### Verbs with Prepositions followed by Gerund

Example: I'm *looking forward to seeing* you again soon.

- |                 |                  |                  |                   |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| • accuse of     | • blame for      | • dream about/of | • look forward to |
| • agree with    | • care for       | • feel like      | • object to       |
| • apologize for | • carry on       | • forgive for    | • think of        |
| • ask about     | • complain about | • give up        | • succeed in      |
| • believe in    | • concentrate on | • insist on      | • use for         |
| • be used to    | • depend on      | • keep on        |                   |

## Words followed either by Infinitive or *Ing*-Form

### Words with the same meaning

Example: I started to read. / I started reading.

- |           |               |          |          |
|-----------|---------------|----------|----------|
| • attempt | • cannot bear | • hate   | • prefer |
| • begin   | • cease       | • intend | • start  |
| • bother  | • continue    | • love   |          |

## Words with the same meaning but different use

Word	Infinitive - with an object	Gerund – without an object
advise	I advise you to go by bus.	I advise going by bus.
allow / permit	He allowed her to take the car.	He allowed taking the car.
forbid	She forbids us to smoke.	She forbids smoking.

## Words with a different meaning

Word	Infinitive meaning	Gerund meaning
forget / remember	with regard to the future <i>Remember to switch off the lights.</i> Spanish: Recuerda apagar las luces	with regard to the past <i>Do you remember switching off the lights?</i> Spanish: ¿Recuerdas haber apagado las luces?
go on	start something new <i>Go on to read.</i> Spanish:	continue with the same action <i>Go on reading.</i>
regret	with regard to the future <i>I regret to say that's wrong.</i> Spanish: Lamento decir que está mal.	with regard to the past <i>I regret saying that.</i> Spanish: Lamento haber dicho que está mal.
stop	interrupt another action <i>I stopped to smoke.</i> Spanish: Paré para fumar.	terminate <i>I stopped smoking.</i> Spanish: Paré de fumar.
try	do something complicated <i>Try to solve this riddle.</i> Spanish: Intenta resolver este acertijo.	do it and see what happens <i>Try talking to him.</i> Spanish: Prueba a hablar con él.

### Gerund or Infinitive - Exercise 1

- 1) A lot of people are worried about \_\_\_\_\_ their jobs. (lose)
- 2) He agreed \_\_\_\_\_ a new car. (buy)
- 3) The question is easy \_\_\_\_\_ (answer)
- 4) Not everybody can afford \_\_\_\_\_ to university. (go)
- 5) I look forward to \_\_\_\_\_ you at the weekend. (see)
- 6) Are you thinking of \_\_\_\_\_ London? (visit)
- 7) He apologized for \_\_\_\_\_ so late. (arrive)
- 8) Stop \_\_\_\_\_ noise, please; I'm studying. (make)
- 9) She doesn't mind \_\_\_\_\_ the night shift. (work)
- 10) I learned \_\_\_\_\_ the bike at the age of 5. (ride)

### Gerund or Infinitive - Exercise 2

- 1) We decided \_\_\_\_\_ a new car. (buy)
- 2) I regret \_\_\_\_\_ you we won't lend you the money. (tell)
- 3) Peter gave up \_\_\_\_\_. (smoke)
- 4) He'd like \_\_\_\_\_ an aeroplane. (fly)
- 5) I enjoy \_\_\_\_\_ picture postcards. (write)
- 6) He offered \_\_\_\_\_ help with the cleaning. (help)
- 7) Avoid \_\_\_\_\_ silly mistakes. (make)
- 8) My parents wanted me \_\_\_\_\_ home at 11 o'clock. (be)
- 9) I dream about \_\_\_\_\_ a big house. (build)
- 10) He advised me \_\_\_\_\_ so much money. (not spend)

## Gerund or Infinitive Exercise 1

1 Fill the gaps with the verb in brackets in the appropriate form.

- 1 I **can't stand** \_\_\_\_\_ in queues. ( to wait )
- 2 I wouldn't like \_\_\_\_\_ in his shoes. ( to be )
- 3 Jim loves \_\_\_\_\_ in Thailand. ( to work )
- 4 I **hate** \_\_\_\_\_ the shopping on Saturday. ( to do )
- 5 Blast! I forgot \_\_\_\_\_ milk. ( to buy )
- 6 In the end we decided \_\_\_\_\_ in. ( to stay )
- 7 I **need** \_\_\_\_\_ some information about Portugal. ( to find )
- 8 My parents **like** \_\_\_\_\_ for long walks at the weekend. ( to go )
- 9 Tony gave up \_\_\_\_\_ years ago. ( to smoke )
- 10 I wanted \_\_\_\_\_ and see Troy but no one else was interested. ( to go )
- 11 Mrs Leith offered \_\_\_\_\_ us to the airport. ( to take )
- 12 Clare refused \_\_\_\_\_ clean up after the party. ( to help )
- 13 I tried \_\_\_\_\_ him to come but it was no use. ( to persuade )
- 14 Do you **mind** not \_\_\_\_\_ ? ( to smoke )
- 15 Everybody really enjoyed \_\_\_\_\_ the cha-cha-cha. ( to dance )
- 16 Lionel admitted \_\_\_\_\_ my chocolate mousse. ( to eat )

2 Check your answers and put the verbs in **bold** into the right columns. Translate the verbs.

VERB + GERUND		VERB + TO + INFINITIVE	
	<i>Translation</i>		<i>Translation</i>
admit	.....	decide	.....
_____	.....	forget	.....
enjoy	.....	_____	.....
give up	.....	offer	.....
_____	.....	refuse	.....
_____	.....	try	.....
love	.....	want	.....
_____	.....	would like	.....

## Gerund or Infinitive Exercise 2

1 Use the verbs in brackets to fill the gaps.

- 1 We **arranged** \_\_\_\_\_ under the station clock at half nine. ( to meet )
- 2 I always try to **avoid** \_\_\_\_\_ him whenever I can. ( to see )
- 3 I long \_\_\_\_\_ in Scotland again. ( to be )
- 4 My Mum demanded \_\_\_\_\_ the manager. ( to see )
- 5 My brother **denied** \_\_\_\_\_ my chocolate mousse. Maybe his hamster ate it. ( to eat )
- 6 I tried \_\_\_\_\_ but I just couldn't. ( to understand )
- 7 In the end I **gave up** \_\_\_\_\_ to persuade her. ( to try )
- 8 Charlie was pretending \_\_\_\_\_ a chicken. ( to be )
- 9 They **chose** \_\_\_\_\_ in a cheap hotel but spend more money on meals. ( to stay )
- 10 We like Galicia so much that we keep \_\_\_\_\_ back there. ( to go )
- 11 He **deserves** \_\_\_\_\_ severely punished. ( to be )
- 12 When we visit my aunt, they expect me \_\_\_\_\_ on my best behaviour. ( to be )
- 13 I didn't mean \_\_\_\_\_ her feelings. I'm really sorry. ( to hurt )
- 14 I always **put off** \_\_\_\_\_ my homework until the last possible moment. ( to do )
- 15 He goes on \_\_\_\_\_ me the same thing over and over again. ( to tell )
- 16 I can't stand \_\_\_\_\_ in the queue at the baker's. ( to wait )
- 17 The firemen **managed** \_\_\_\_\_ the fire pretty quickly. ( to put out )
- 18 I never **risk** \_\_\_\_\_ through that part of town. ( to go )
- 19 Clare offered \_\_\_\_\_ me to the airport, which was very kind of her. ( to take )
- 20 Dad **threatened** \_\_\_\_\_ my pocket money if I didn't do my homework. ( to stop )

2 Check your answers and put the verbs in **bold** into the right columns. Translate the verbs.

VERB + GERUND		VERB + TO + INFINITIVE	
	<i>Translation</i>		<i>Translation</i>
1 _____	.....	1 _____	.....
2 _____	.....	2 _____	.....
3 _____	.....	3 _____	.....
4 _____	.....	4 _____	.....
5 _____	.....	5 _____	.....

## Gerund or Infinitive Exercise 1 **answers**

- 1 I **can't stand** **waiting** in queues. ( to wait )
- 2 I wouldn't like **to be** in his shoes. ( to be )
- 3 Jim loves **working** in Thailand. ( to work )
- 4 I **hate** **doing** the shopping on Saturday. ( to do )
- 5 Blast! I forgot **to buy** milk. ( to buy )
- 6 In the end we decided **to stay** in. ( to stay )
- 7 I **need** **to find** some information about Portugal. ( to find )
- 8 My parents **like** **going** for long walks at the weekend. ( to go )
- 9 Tony gave up **smoking** years ago. ( to smoke )
- 10 I wanted **to go** and see Troy but no one else was interested. ( to go )
- 11 Mrs Leith offered **to take** us to the airport. ( to take )
- 12 Clare refused **to help** clean up after the party. ( to help )
- 13 I tried **to persuade** him to come but it was no use. ( to persuade )
- 14 Do you **mind** **not smoking** ? ( to smoke )
- 15 Everybody really enjoyed **dancing** the cha-cha-cha. ( to dance )
- 16 Lionel admitted **eating** my chocolate mousse. ( to eat )

VERB + GERUND		VERB + TO + INFINITIVE	
	<i>Translation</i>		<i>Translation</i>
admit	.....	decide	.....
can't stand	.....	forget	.....
enjoy	.....	need	.....
give up	.....	offer	.....
hate	.....	refuse	.....
like	.....	try	.....
love	.....	want	.....
mind	.....	would like	.....

## Gerund or Infinitive Exercise 2 **answers**

- 1 We **arranged to meet** under the station clock at half nine. ( to meet )
- 2 I always try to **avoid seeing** him whenever I can. ( to see )
- 3 I long **to be** in Scotland again. ( to be )
- 4 My Mum demanded **to see** the manager. ( to see )
- 5 My brother **denied eating** my chocolate mousse. Maybe his hamster ate it. ( to eat )
- 6 I tried **to understand** but I just couldn't. ( to understand )
- 7 In the end I **gave up trying** to persuade her. ( to try )
- 8 Charlie was pretending **to be** a chicken. ( to be )
- 9 They **chose to stay** in a cheap hotel but spend more money on meals. ( to stay )
- 10 We like Galicia so much that we keep **going** back there. ( to go )
- 11 He **deserves to be** severely punished. ( to be )
- 12 When we visit my aunt, they expect me **to be** on my best behaviour. ( to be )
- 13 I didn't mean **to hurt** her feelings. I'm really sorry. ( to hurt )
- 14 I always **put off doing** my homework until the last possible moment. ( to do )
- 15 He goes on **telling** me the same thing over and over again. ( to tell )
- 16 I can't stand **waiting** in the queue at the baker's. ( to wait )
- 17 The firemen **managed to put out** the fire pretty quickly. ( to put out )
- 18 I never **risk going** through that part of town. ( to go )
- 19 Clare offered **to take** me to the airport, which was very kind of her. ( to take )
- 20 Dad **threatened to stop** my pocket money if I didn't do my homework. ( to stop )

VERB + GERUND		VERB + TO + INFINITIVE	
	<i>Translation</i>		<i>Translation</i>
avoid	.....	arrange	.....
deny	.....	choose	.....
give up	.....	deserve	.....
put off	.....	manage	.....
risk	.....	threaten	.....

# Gerund or Infinitive Exercises

## COMMON VERBS FOLLOWED BY THE GERUND:

Enjoy	I <b>enjoyed</b> living in France.
fancy	I <b>fancy</b> seeing a film tonight.
discuss	We <b>discussed</b> going on holiday together.
dislike	I <b>dislike</b> waiting for buses.
finish	We've <b>finished</b> preparing for the meeting.
suggest	He <b>suggested</b> staying at the Grand Hotel.
recommend	They <b>recommended</b> meeting earlier.
avoid	She <b>avoided</b> talking to her boss.
miss	She <b>misses</b> living near the beach.
appreciate	I <b>appreciated</b> her helping me.
delay	He <b>delayed</b> doing his taxes.
postpone	He <b>postponed</b> returning to Paris.
practise	She <b>practised</b> singing the song.
consider	She <b>considered</b> moving to New York.
risk	He <b>risked</b> being caught.
admit	He <b>admitted</b> cheating on the test.
deny	He <b>denied</b> committing the crime.
mention	He <b>mentioned</b> going to that college.
imagine	He <b>imagines</b> working there one day.
tolerate	I <b>tolerated</b> her talking.
understand	I <b>understand</b> his quitting.
involve	The job <b>involves</b> travelling to Japan once a month.
complete	He <b>completed</b> renovating the house.
report	He <b>reported</b> her stealing the money.
anticipate	I <b>anticipated</b> arriving late.
recall	Tom <b>recalled</b> using his credit card at the store.

## COMMON VERBS FOLLOWED BY TO + INFINITIVE:

agree	She <b>agreed</b> to give a presentation at the meeting
ask*	I <b>asked</b> to leave early / I asked him to leave early
decide	We <b>decided</b> to go out for dinner
help*	He <b>helped</b> to clean the kitchen / he <b>helped</b> his flatmate to clean the kitchen
plan	She <b>plans</b> to buy a new flat next year
hope	I <b>hope</b> to pass the exam
learn	They are <b>learning</b> to sing
want*	I <b>want</b> to come to the party / I <b>want</b> him to come to the party.
would like*	I <b>would like</b> to see her tonight / I would like you to see her tonight
promise	We <b>promised</b> not to be late
can afford	We <b>can't afford</b> to go on holiday.
manage	He <b>managed</b> to open the door without the key.
prepare*	They <b>prepared</b> to take the test /the teachers prepared the students to take the test.
demand	He <b>demanded</b> to speak to Mr. Harris.
choose	I <b>chose</b> to help.
offer	Frank <b>offered</b> to drive us to the supermarket.
wait	She <b>waited</b> to buy a movie ticket.
would hate*	I'd <b>hate</b> to be late / I'd <b>hate</b> you to be late.
would love*	I'd <b>love</b> to come / I'd <b>love</b> him to come.

seem	Nancy <b>seemed</b> to be disappointed.
expect*	They <b>expect</b> to arrive early / they <b>expect</b> Julie to arrive early
intend	We <b>intend</b> to visit you next spring.
pretend	The child <b>pretended</b> to be a monster.
refuse	The guard <b>refused</b> to let them enter the building.
would prefer*	I'd <b>prefer</b> to do it / I'd <b>prefer</b> him to do it.
deserve	He <b>deserves</b> to go to jail.
appear	His health <b>appeared</b> to be better.
arrange	Naomi <b>arranged</b> to stay with her cousin in Miami.

\*We can use an object before the infinitive with these verbs.

(Note that 'help' can also be followed by the infinitive without 'to' with no difference in meaning: 'I helped to carry it' = 'I helped carry it'.)

## Exercises

### 1. Put the verb into the correct form:

1. I don't fancy \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out tonight.
2. She avoided \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) him about her plans.
3. I would like \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to the party with you.
4. He enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a bath in the evening.
5. She kept \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) during the film.
6. I am learning \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) English.
7. Do you mind \_\_\_\_\_ (give) me a hand?
8. She helped me \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) my suitcases.
9. I've finished \_\_\_\_\_ (cook). Come and eat!
10. He decided \_\_\_\_\_ (study) Biology.
11. I dislike \_\_\_\_\_ (wait).
12. He asked \_\_\_\_\_ (come) with us.
13. I promise \_\_\_\_\_ (help) you tomorrow.
14. We discussed \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema, but in the end we stayed at home.
15. She agreed \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) the pudding.
16. I don't recommend \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the bus, it takes forever!
17. We hope \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) Amsterdam next month.
18. She suggested \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the museum.
19. They plan \_\_\_\_\_ (start) college in the autumn.
20. I don't want \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) yet.

### 2. Put the verb into the gerund or the infinitive with 'to':

1. She delayed \_\_\_\_\_ (get) out of bed.
2. He demanded \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) to the manager.
3. I offered \_\_\_\_\_ (help).
4. I miss \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the beach.
5. We postponed \_\_\_\_\_ (do) our homework.



6. I'd hate \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) too late.
7. She admitted \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) the money.
8. I chose \_\_\_\_\_ (work) here.
9. She waited \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a drink.
10. I really appreciate \_\_\_\_\_ (be) on holiday.
11. I couldn't help \_\_\_\_\_ (laugh).
12. It seems \_\_\_\_\_ (be) raining.
13. I considered \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to Spain.
14. They practised \_\_\_\_\_ (speak).
15. Finally I managed \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) the work.
16. I really can't stand \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for the bus.
17. Unfortunately, we can't afford \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new car this year.
18. She risked \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late.
19. I'd love \_\_\_\_\_ (come) with you.
20. I prepared \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on holiday.

**3. Put the verb into the gerund or the infinitive with 'to':**

1. It appears \_\_\_\_\_ (be) raining.
2. We intend \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the countryside this weekend.
3. I pretended \_\_\_\_\_ (be) sick so I didn't have to go to work.
4. Can you imagine \_\_\_\_\_ (live) without TV?
5. They tolerate \_\_\_\_\_ (smoke) but they prefer people not to.
6. I anticipate \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) on Tuesday.
7. A wedding involves \_\_\_\_\_ (negotiate) with everyone in the family.
8. He denies \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) the money.
9. He claims \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a millionaire but I don't believe him.
10. I expect \_\_\_\_\_ (be) there about seven.
11. Julia reported \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the boys to the police.
12. It tends \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) a lot in Scotland.
13. Do you recall \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) her at the party last week?
14. She mentioned \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema, but I don't know what she decided to do in the end.
15. The teenager refused \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on holiday with his parents.
16. I understand \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late once or twice, but every day is too much!
17. I would prefer you \_\_\_\_\_ (come) early if you can.
18. That criminal deserves \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a long sentence.
19. She completed \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) her flat.
20. We arranged \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) at four but at four thirty she still hadn't arrived.

1. Answers:

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. going     | 11. waiting  |
| 2. telling   | 12. to come  |
| 3. to come   | 13. to help  |
| 4. having    | 14. going    |
| 5. talking   | 15. to bring |
| 6. to speak  | 16. taking   |
| 7. giving    | 17. to visit |
| 8. to carry  | 18. going    |
| 9. cooking   | 19. to start |
| 10. to study | 20. to leave |

2. Answers:

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1. getting   | 11. laughing  |
| 2. to speak  | 12. to be     |
| 3. to help   | 13. moving    |
| 4. going     | 14. speaking  |
| 5. doing     | 15. to finish |
| 6. to arrive | 16. waiting   |
| 7. stealing  | 17. to buy    |
| 8. to work   | 18. being     |
| 9. to buy    | 19. to come   |
| 10. being    | 20. to go     |

3. Answers:

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1. to be       | 11. seeing   |
| 2. to go       | 12. to rain  |
| 3. to be       | 13. meeting  |
| 4. living      | 14. going    |
| 5. smoking     | 15. to go    |
| 6. arriving    | 16. being    |
| 7. negotiating | 17. to come  |
| 8. stealing    | 18. to get   |
| 9. to be       | 19. painting |
| 10. to be      | 20. to meet  |

## Gerunds and Infinitives Part 1

Put the verb into the correct form:

1. I don't fancy \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out tonight.
2. She avoided \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) him about her plans.
3. I would like \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to the party with you.
4. He enjoys \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a bath in the evening.
5. She kept \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) during the film.
6. I am learning \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) English.
7. Do you mind \_\_\_\_\_ (give) me a hand?
8. She helped me \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) my suitcases.
9. I've finished \_\_\_\_\_ (cook). Come and eat!
10. He decided \_\_\_\_\_ (study) Biology.
11. I dislike \_\_\_\_\_ (wait).
12. He asked \_\_\_\_\_ (come) with us.
13. I promise \_\_\_\_\_ (help) you tomorrow.
14. We discussed \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema, but in the end we stayed at home.
15. She agreed \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) the pudding.
16. I don't recommend \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the bus, it takes forever!
17. We hope \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) Amsterdam next month.
18. She suggested \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the museum.
19. They plan \_\_\_\_\_ (start) college in the autumn.
20. I don't want \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) yet.

Answers:

1. going
2. telling
3. to come
4. having
5. talking
6. to speak
7. giving
8. to carry
9. cooking
10. to study
11. waiting
12. to come
13. to help
14. going
15. to bring
16. taking
17. to visit
18. going
19. to start
20. to leave

# NARRATIVE TENSES



## 1 GRAMMAR

*Past Tenses: Past simple, Past continuous, Past perfect, Past perfect continuous.*

**1.1 Fill each gap with either the *past continuous*, *past perfect simple* or *past perfect continuous*.**

1. I was exhausted at the end of the exam. I \_\_\_\_\_ (write) for over two hours.

2. When thieves stole my favorite leather jacket, I was really upset. I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) it for over ten years.

3. Please step out of the car, Mr. Jones. Do you realize you \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) at over 90mph?

4. We didn't really want to go and see the musical again. We \_\_\_\_\_ (already see) it twice - so we said "no" and we went to a restaurant instead!

5. I arrived over an hour late to the office and everyone \_\_\_\_\_ (work).  
Actually, they \_\_\_\_\_ (work) for over two hours on the new project and I  
felt really guilty.
6. The kitchen was full of steam when we arrived. Joan was in the kitchen and  
she \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) a huge meal for everyone at the party.
7. It was a bit embarrassing to arrive at their house and find Mary looking so  
sad. I think she \_\_\_\_\_ (cry) before we got there.
8. No-one even noticed when I got home. They \_\_\_\_\_ (all watch) the big  
game on TV and obviously the dog \_\_\_\_\_ (bark) for over an hour. I was  
furious.
9. Sue wasn't in the sales department when I started working here. She  
\_\_\_\_\_ (work) in accounting for over five years but wanted a change.
10. You got to the airport too late! The plane \_\_\_\_\_ (already arrive) and  
the twins \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for you! How embarrassing!



## 1.2 FILL THE GAPS

James Bond \_\_\_\_\_ (need) a drink. The fight in the car park with the dwarf \_\_\_\_\_ (make) him thirsty. He walked quickly along 46th Street in search of an air-conditioned bar where he could get out of the heat and think.

He \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) for only a few minutes, when it suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ (occur) to him that he \_\_\_\_\_ (follow) There was no evidence for it except for a slight itchy feeling on the top of his head. But he had faith in his sixth sense.

It \_\_\_\_\_ (never / fail) him.

He \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) in front of the shop window he \_\_\_\_\_ (pass)

and \_\_\_\_\_ (look) casually back along the street.

He \_\_\_\_\_ (examine) the Swiss watches in the window and then \_\_\_\_\_ (turn) and walked on.

After a few yards he turned into a shop doorway where a man \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at Japanese cameras.

As he did so, something grabbed his right arm and a voice snarled, 'All right, Limey\*. Take

it easy unless you want lead for lunch.', He \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (feel) something press into his back just above his

kidneys. Bond \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to swing his arm to hit

whoever it was that \_\_\_\_\_ (hold) him, but a

strong hand \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) his fist\*\*. An amused

voice \_\_\_\_\_ (say) "No good, James. The angels have got

you."

He turned his head to find himself looking into the grinning hawk-like\*\*\* face of Felix Leiter. A face he  \_\_\_\_\_ (last / see) covered in bandages in a hospital bed in Cairo nine months earlier. The face of the American secret agent with whom he  \_\_\_\_\_ (share) so many adventures.

*(With apologies to Ian Fleming)*

\* **limey** - an old fashioned American slang expression for an British person.

\*\* **fist** - the shape of your hand when you hold your fingers and thumb tightly together when you want to hit someone.

\*\*\* **hawk-like** - like a hawk, a kind of hunting bird.

## 2 THE COMPETITION

Students will be divided into teams of two. Each team will be given cards with sentences written on them. Teams must match their sentences with the correct grammar tense on the wall. You will be given three minutes for each round.

*Good luck and may the odds be ever in your favor.*

Grammar Tense	Sentence



# REMEMBER THE GRAMMAR RULES FOR PAST TENSES

narrative tenses: past simple, past continuous, past perfect, past perfect continuous

narrative tenses

- 1 We **arrived** at the airport and **checked in**. (2 8))
- 2 We **were having** dinner when the plane hit some turbulence.  
At nine o'clock most people on the plane **were reading** or **were trying** to sleep.
- 3 When we arrived at the airport, we suddenly realized that we **had left** one of the suitcases in the taxi.
- 4 We'd **been flying** for about two hours when suddenly the captain told us to fasten our seat belts because we were flying into some very bad weather.

- 1 We use the **past simple** to talk about consecutive actions or situations in the past, i.e. for the main events in a story.
- 2 We use the **past continuous** (*was / were + verb + -ing*) to describe a longer continuous past action or situation which was in progress when another action happened, or to describe an action or situation that was not complete at a past time.

- 3 We use the **past perfect** (*had + past participle*) to talk about the 'earlier past', i.e. things which happened before the main event(s).
- 4 We use the **past perfect continuous** (*had been + verb + -ing*) with action verbs to talk about longer continuous actions or situations that started before the main events happened and have continued up to that point. Non-action verbs (e.g. *be, have, know, like*, etc.) are not normally used in the past continuous or past perfect continuous.

past perfect simple or continuous?

Lina was crying because she'd **been reading** a very sad book. (2 9))  
Lina didn't want to see the film, because she'd already **read** the book.

- The past perfect continuous emphasizes the continuation of an activity. The past perfect simple emphasizes the completion of an activity.

# NARRATIVE TENSES WORKSHEET

Narrative tenses are the grammatical structures that you use when telling a story, or talking about situations and activities which happened at a defined past time.

When narrating past events, **DO NOT** mix past and present tenses (avoid using the present perfect and present simple), as these will confuse the reader/listener about when things really happened.

Here are the most common narrative tenses and how they are used:

## PAST SIMPLE

The past simple tense is used:

a) To express a completed action at a definite time in the past. The separate events which occur in sequence in a narrative are expressed using this tense.

E.g. I woke up at half past seven yesterday; I had a shower and ate some breakfast. I left for work at quarter past eight.

N.B. The past simple is the most common tense after '**when?**'

b) to express habits.

N.B. **Used to + verb** is often used to express past **habits** and **states** that happened in the past, but do not happen now. Used to can not be used for actions which only occurred once.

Eg. **I used to** work for Petrobrás. (I don't work for them now)

**I didn't use to** like living in Ipanema. (I do like it now)

Where did **you use to** go for lunch? (You don't go there now)

## PAST CONTINUOUS

As with all continuous tenses, the past continuous gives the idea of activity and duration.

The past continuous is used:

a) To describe the situation in which the events of the narrative occurred. Also to set the scene of the story: background information.



E.g. When I saw her (1), she was wearing (2) a blue dress and was driving (2) a Mercedes.

b) to express an activity in progress at a time in the past.

N.B. The past continuous is the most common tense after '**while**' in questions and statements.

The past continuous also expresses the idea of:

### **An interrupted activity**

Eg. She was cooking dinner when the door bell rang. (She cooked dinner = she finished it)

### **An unfinished activity**

Eg. I was reading a book yesterday. (I read a book... = I finished reading the whole book)

### **A repeated action**

Eg. They were shooting at the enemy. (They shot.... = They fired the gun one time only)

### **A temporary situation**

Eg. He was standing on the corner waiting for a bus. (It stood on the corner. = Permanent situation)

## **PAST PERFECT SIMPLE**

The past perfect simple is used

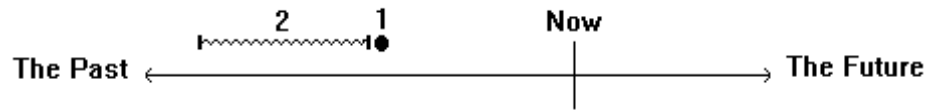
a) to show that an action or situation happened **BEFORE** the events in the narrative described in the simple past.

I woke up at half past seven yesterday. I had slept very badly because there had been a power cut during the night.

N.B! It is bad style to use too many verbs in the past perfect. As soon as it is clear that the events happened before the time that the narrative is set, use the simple past.

## **PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS**

The past perfect continuous is used for longer activities that were happening continuously up until a specified time in the past.



He looked very tired (1), he had been working very hard (2) over the past three weeks.

As with the past continuous, the past perfect continuous can show the following:

### **Unfinished activity**

Eg. He hadn't heard the telephone ring because he'd been reading.

### **Repeated activity**

Eg. I was tired. I'd been cutting wood all day.

With the past perfect simple, the focus is on the completed activity.

Eg. He'd read three reports that morning.

He'd cut a huge pile of wood.

## PRACTICE

**Put the verb in brackets into the correct form. Where both the past simple and past perfect simple are possible, write 'BOTH'.**

- 1. Until I \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) the situation to her I felt guilty.
- 2. After I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) my lunch I went back to work.
- 3. When the police \_\_\_\_\_ (interview) me they let me go home.
- 4. As soon as I got home my brother \_\_\_\_\_ (go out).
- 5. The children had to stay in until the rain \_\_\_\_\_ (stop)
- 6. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) John coming towards me I walked in the other direction.
- 7. I phoned my mother to find out why she \_\_\_\_\_ (not write) for so long.
- 8. We stayed in our seats until the film \_\_\_\_\_ (finish).

**Continue the following sentences using the words in bracket in either the past perfect simple or continuous.**

- 1. My landlord threw me out of my flat because (not pay the rent for six months / and break all the windows)

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- 2. When I eventually got to the meeting I was bad tempered and exhausted! I (sit in traffic jam 45 minutes / motorist bump into me / and get completely lost)

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- 3. By the time 5 o'clock arrived Brenda was furious. She (wait for an hour / drink six cups of tea / and they still not arrive)

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- 4. I was so depressed that I couldn't do the exam. I (study every day for two months / and give up see my friends)

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