

Tense review: Past, Present & Future

Some reminders of the functions of the tenses:

1. present simple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • routines • scheduled events • facts
2. present continuous be + verb + ing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • actions happening now • temporary ongoing actions/states • arrangements
3. present perfect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finished action in the past which affects the present • multiple actions in a period which hasn't finished • a finished event and we don't know/say when • an action which started in the past and continues to now
4. present perfect continuous	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an (often physical) action in progress up to now (often you can see the evidence)
5. past simple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finished actions in the past with timestamp
6. past continuous was/were + verb + ing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ongoing action at a time in the past
7. past perfect had + past participle (v3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • action before an established past action
8. past perfect continuous had been + verb + ing	an (often physical) action in progress up to an established action in the past (often you can see the evidence)
9. future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after the present
10. future continuous will + be + verb+ing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an ongoing action at a point in the future
11. future perfect will + have + past participle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an action which will be completed before a point in the future

Fill the gaps in the texts below!

Exercise 1

hold	be	go	recommend	like	come	never leave	arrive
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Last year I **1** to Spain. It was a great holiday. I **2** the UK before, so it was very strange! My sister **3**)..... with me on the plane and I was really scared! She **4**) my hand though and I was ok. When we **5**)..... we got a bocadillo from a small café. Yum! The food in Spain **6**)..... tremendous – I **7**)..... it to anyone who **8**)..... trying new things.

Exercise 2

walk	remember	look	not cry	not follow	grab	be	drop off
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Later this year I **1)**..... 43. I can't believe it. How did I get to be so old? I can still **2)**..... my first day at school, 39 years ago. 39 years! My mum **3)** me at the front gates. I **4)** at her and wondered why she **5)** me! Then a very kind woman, Mrs San, **6)**..... my hand and **7)**..... with me into the school. My mum said I was very brave because I **8)**..... !

Exercise 3

be	leave	want	save	love	eat	have	visit
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I **1)**..... everything connected with the USA. For the last ten years I **2)**..... my extra cash and now I **3)**..... a plane ticket to New York. My plane **4)** at 08:00 on the 1st June. I **5)**..... extremely excited! When I get there I **6)**..... all of the famous tourist attractions, like the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street and Times Square. If I get the chance, I **7)**..... a hot dog at a baseball match too. I **8)**..... always to do that!

Exercise 4

My mum **1)**..... in a place called Formby, which is near the coast, in the north-west of England. She **2)**..... there for 5 years by November this year. It is a nice place. It is very quiet and the beach is beautiful in the summer. As a result, it **3)**..... very crowded with visitors. A few years ago I **4)** there and hundreds of cars **5)**..... down the road to get into the car park. Before my mum **6)**..... there, I **7)**..... to the beach or **8)**..... in the sea, so it was very special when I visited her.

Exercise 5

Paul: I can't wait for the Olympics this year.

John: Really?

Paul: Yeah. It's not very often that your own country **1)**them.

John: I suppose so. But do you think it **2)**all according to plan?

Paul: What **3)** you ask that?

John: I **4)**some reports that say the construction might not **5)**in time.

Paul: Hmm. That's just the news though. The news always **6)** depressing things.

John: **7)** you near the site of the main stadium? It doesn't look good.

Paul: Stop worrying! I'm sure it **8)**by the start of the games.

Exercise 6

When I was young I **1) joined** a football team in my neighbourhood. I **2)**in any type of team before, so it was really scary. There were big boys there and they **3)**very aggressively on the pitch. I **4)**it to be honest, so I left the team and **5) joined** another one. That team was much more friendly. I **6)**a lot of nice guys and we **7)** a wonderful time. Even now I still **8)** some of them and we **9)**about the old days very fondly.

Exercise 7

What experience do you have of sport?

Answers

Exercise 1

hold	be	go	recommend	like	come	never leave	arrive
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Last year I **1 went** to Spain. It was a great holiday. I **2) had never left** the UK before, so it was very strange! My sister **3) came** with me on the plane and I was really scared! She **4) held** my hand though and I was ok. When we **5) arrived** we got a bocadillo from a small café. Yum! The food in Spain **6) was / is** tremendous – I **7) recommend** it to anyone who **8) likes** trying new things.

Exercise 2

walk	remember	look	not cry	not follow	grab	be	drop off
------	----------	------	---------	------------	------	----	----------

Later this year I **1) will be** 43. I can't believe it. How did I get to be so old? I can still **2) remember** my first day at school, 39 years ago. 39 years! My mum **3) dropped** me **off** at the front gates. I **4) looked** at her and wondered why she **5) hadn't followed / wasn't following** me! Then a very kind woman, Mrs San, **6 grabbed** my hand and **7) walked** with me into the school. My mum said I was very brave because I **8) hadn't cried / didn't cry!**

Exercise 3

be	leave	want	save	love	eat	have	visit
----	-------	------	------	------	-----	------	-------

I **1) love** everything connected with the USA. For the last ten years I **2) have saved** my extra cash and now I **3) have** a plane ticket to New York. My plane **4) is going to leave / will leave / is leaving / leaves** at 08:00 on the 1st June. I **5) am** extremely excited! When I get there I **6) will visit** all of the famous tourist attractions, like the Statue of Liberty, Wall Street and Times Square. If I get the chance, I **7) will eat** a hot dog at a baseball match too. I **8) have** always **wanted** to do that!

Exercise 4

My mum **1) lives** in a place called Formby, which is near the coast, in the north-west of England. She **2) will have lived** there for 5 years by November this year. It is a nice place. It is very quiet and the beach is beautiful in the summer. As a result, it **3) gets** very crowded with visitors. A few years ago I **4) went** there and hundreds of cars **5) were queueing** down the road to get into the car park. Before my mum **6) moved** there, I **7) had never been** to the beach or **8) swum** in the sea, so it was very special when I visited her.

Exercise 5

Paul: I can't wait for the Olympics this year.

John: Really?

Paul: Yeah. It's not very often that your own country **1) hosts** them.

John: I suppose so. But do you think it **2) will** all **go** according to plan?

Paul: What **3) makes** you ask that?

John: I **4) have heard** some reports that say the construction might not **5) be finished** in time.

Paul: Hmm. That's just the news though. The news always **6) reports** depressing things.

John: **7) Have** you **been** near the site of the main stadium? It doesn't look good.

Paul: Stop worrying! I'm sure it **8) will have been finished** by the start of the games.

Exercise 6

When I was young I **1) joined** a football team in my neighbourhood. I **2) had never been** in any type of team before, so it was really scary. There were big boys there and they **3) played** very aggressively on the pitch. I **4) didn't enjoy** it to be honest, so I left the team and **5) joined** another one. That team was much more friendly. I **6) met** a lot of nice guys and we **7) had** a wonderful time. Even now I still **8) see** some of them and we **9) talk** about the old days very fondly.

Exercise 7

What experience do you have of sport?

- I've always been sporty.
- I have never enjoyed sport.
- I have been in a badminton club for six years.
- I hate sport!
- I played sports at school but I haven't done any since I left.
- I played football last week. Before that I hadn't done any exercise for five years. I was exhausted!