

Since 2002

Grammar Exercise Tenses

Exercise 1-10

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Introduction

How confident are you with tenses? Use the following exercises to test yourself and practise identifying where you need to use certain tenses, and forming the verbs correctly. With these exercises, you can practise the past and present simple, the past and present continuous, the present perfect, the present perfect continuous and the future. Watch out for infinitives, present participles and the passive voice, too! If you need some extra help, have a look at the notes at the end of the book.

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Exercise 1 - Bringing about a Sea of Change

On June 16 and 17 last year, United States Secretary of State John Kerry 1	(host) the
"Our Ocean" conference at the State Department to draw attention to th	e threats our oceans
2 (face) and what people can do to protect them.	
Secretary Kerry 3 (talk) with me about why he 4	(love) the ocean
and shared some of his favorite ocean activities like sailing. Secretary Kerry belie	ves kids can do a lot to
protect the ocean, like 5(pick) up rubbish and 6	(make) sure plastic
bottles and bags never get in the ocean in the first place. These small actions can m	ake a big difference.
National Geographic Explorer in Residence, Enric Sala, also 7	(talk) to me about the
work he 8 (do) with National Geographic 9	(save) the last wild
places in the ocean through a project called Pristine Seas, which creates large prote	ected areas in the ocean
around the world. At the conference, the United States, Palau and Kiribati, and T	he Bahamas pledged to
create large marine protected areas.	
On a world scale, Kerry 10 (say) countries need to come	together and discuss
international solutions through meetings like the "Our Ocean" conference. At this	
countries like the U.S. and Palau, ocean experts like National Geographic Explorers in	ı Residence, Sylvia Earle
and Enric Sala, celebrities like Leonardo DiCaprio and scientists from organization	ıs like NASA, NOAA, and
National Geographic 11 (come) together to pledge 12	(do) more
13(protect) the ocean.	A. V.
At the conference I also 14 (interview) Under Secretary, Cathe	erine Novelli, who came
up with the idea to host this conference at the State Department. She 15	(explain) to me
that in the same way that our government 16 (p	rotect) the land by
17 (create) parks, the oceans can be 18	_ (protect) by marine
reserves, or areas of the ocean where fishing and human activity 19	

Exercise 2 - Light Pollution

In most situations, ligh	t 1	(help) us see. But when	it comes to 2	(look
at the night sky, light is	actually a kind of	pollution.		
It 3	(hamper) our vie	w of some of life's most spec	ctacular sights: stars,	planets, and even
		(love) the		
International Dark-Sky	Association, an or	ganization working to redu	ice light pollution.	
"I remember 5	(look)	up and the sky was filled w	vith stars, and I aske	d, 'How many are
there? How far away ar	e they? Can we vis	it them?' I 6	(become) an ast	ronomer because
I 7	(amaze) by their b	eauty," he says. "Now in mos	st big cities, kids can'	t see the stars like
I 8	(do)."			
Normally, about 2,500	individual stars 9	(be) vi	sible to the human ϵ	eye without using
any special equipment	. But because of lig	ght pollution, you actually 1	0	(see) just 200 to
300 from today's subu	rbs, and fewer than	n a dozen from a typical city	7.	
people live far away fro "Fortunately, there is a lights down at the grou	om the lights of big a solution that is it and instead of up in	r own galaxy, the dazzling is cities, office buildings, and nexpensive and has benefit to the sky, and use lower br (preserve) the beauty	shopping malls. ts right away", says (rightness levels, we ca	Gent. "If we shine
Many cities and towns	12	(pass) laws limiting lig	hts at night, making s	sure enough shine
for safety without 13		(create) a lot of light pollut	ion.	
Light pollution 14 of nighttime light can h		fect) more than our view of	the heavens. Researc	ch shows that lots
16	(fly) in circles untroach bright lights.	(fly) over cities ar til they drop from exhausti . Too much light at night ma (learn) more.	on. Sea turtles need ay even affect human	dark beaches for
For all these reasons, r	esearchers 18	(work) on v	vays to use lights only	when and where
		(need). "Everyone 20		
		he unbounded universe," sa		

Exercise 3 - Exploring Ancient Egyptian Mysteries

	Tut 1 (become) pharaoh of Egypt in 1332 B.C. at the age of nine. Only a decade coming to power, the young leader 2 (die). In 1922, explorers 3
(find	d) the king's crypt beneath an Egyptian desert, but how the king died 4 (remain) a tery.
In C	ontomber 2014, however Egyptologist Chris Nounton cyploined a new theory. He believes Ving Tut may
	eptember 2014, however, Egyptologist Chris Naunton explained a new theory. He believes King Tut may (strike) by a chariot. Check out the interview with Naunton below
	(learn) more about his fascination with the mysteries of Ancient Egypt.
Q&A	with Egyptologist Chris Naunton
Q1.	Why were you so interested in 7 (find) out exactly what 8 (happen) to King Tut?
A1.	King Tut is one of the most famous people from ancient history and everyone knows what he 9 (look) like (or at least what the death mask 10 (look) like.
	But we know very little about who he really 11 (be), what he
	12 (do) each day, what he 13 (think), and what, in the end,
	happened to him. I wanted to see if I could find out more about that side of him, and of course how he
	came to die so young and to bury with such amazing treasures.
Q2.	Now that you 14 (discover) a new theory on King Tut's death, what other Egyptian mysteries would you like to explore?
A2.	I think what I would really like to know is what 15 (happen) to the man who was
	probably King Tut's father, Akhenaten. He 16 (change) a lot of things while he was
	king and it must 17 (be) very interesting to live in Egypt at that time. But after he
	died, people tried to change everything back again and he became very unpopular. We're not sure
	where he was buried and it seems his body might 18 (move) at least once. I'd love
	to know what really happened!
Q3.	What is the strangest thing you have discovered during your study of Ancient Egypt?
A3.	Perhaps the most amazing thing to me is how well things have survived, even human bodies. To be
	able to look at someone as famous and ancient as Ramesses the Great and 19(see)
	his body with the skin and hair still present 20 (be) almost unbelievable!

Exercise 4 - Spinosaurus Fossil: 'Giant Swimming Dinosaur' UnearthedRead the following article and fill in the blanks with the verb in the correct tense.

A giant fossil, 1 (unique look at the largest-known mea			(give) scientists a
The 95-million-year-old remains conf			n swimming dinosaur.
Scientists say the beast 3that would have allowed it 4	(have) flat, (dive) w	paddle-like feet and a long ith ease.	head like a crocodile,
Nizar Ibrahim, a dinosaur expert from a long neck, a long trunk, a long tail, a	n the University of C	hicago, said, "It is a really biz	
Spinosaurus remains 5			100 years ago in Egypt
and 6 (move) to a	museum in Germa	ny.	
However, they 7(destroy) during Wor	rld War II, when a bomb 8	(hit)
the building. The new fossil, which 9.			
provided scientists with a more detail			
The team says that Spinosaurus was a mighty Tyrannosaurus rex.	scary beast and ma	y even 10	_(be) bigger than the
Dr Ibrahim explained, "The one thing	we 11	(notice) was that the	nronortions are really
bizarre. The hind limbs 12			
claws 13(be) quit			
He added: "We thought: 'Wow - this !	looks like adantatio	ns for a life mainly spent in	water'""And then we
14(notice) other			
15 (interlock) con			
animals than of other dinosaurs. The		(be) very dense. That 1	
(be) something you see in animals like			(be) important for
buoyancy in the water."	e pengunis or sea ec	A	

Exercise 5 - Ozone Layer Showing 'Signs of Recovery'

The ozone layer that 1 (shield) the Earth from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) rays 2 (show) signs of 3 (thicken), after years of 4
(get) thinner.
The ozone layer is the part of the Earth's upper atmosphere where ozone, a form of oxygen gas, 5(find).
It 6 (absorb) UV radiation, 7 (prevent) most of it from reaching us
on the ground. This is important as UV radiation can lead to skin cancer.
The largest hole in the ozone layer appears over Antarctica. This hole 8 also (stop) getting bigger, suggesting that the ozone layer 9 (begin) to recover.
However, researchers says it will take around 10 years before the hole starts 10(shrink).
Scientists say it's getting better due to the efforts 11 (stop) man-made CFC gases destroying ozone.
CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) are gases that 12 (use) in aerosol cans and refrigerators during the 20th century.
In the 1970s scientists 13 (find) that CFCs were destroying ozone in the atmosphere,
and they 14 (ban) in America, Canada and Scandinavian countries. In 1990 93 countries 15 (get) together and agreed to ban the use of CFCs by the year 2000.
Dr Ken Jucks from the US space agency NASA told the BBC that humans "have started to do the right thing
in order to convert the atmosphere back towards what it 16 (be) before the industrial revolution started."
Scientists cannot be absolutely certain yet that the hole 17 (get) smaller. Professor David Vaughan from the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) said, "We have to be a bit cautious, but this does look on the face of it like some very good news."
"Our own data from the Antarctic 18 (take) a few weeks to process but we hope to confirm the findings," he added.
The findings have been published by researchers from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Exercise 6 - Back on Earth after six months in orbit

Two Russian cosmo	onauts and an American astronaut have returned to Earth a	fter 1
(spend) more than s	six months in space.	
They 2	(be) working together aboard the International Space	Station (ISS).
	Swanson, and Russians, Alexander Skvortsov and (leave) on March 26, 4 (land) in the Kaza	
aboard a Soyuz caps		
The trio 5	(give) thumbs up signs and waved in	the sunshine as they
6	_(spend) their first minutes back on the planet.	
	(orbit) the Earth more than 2,700 times and 8 ion miles, NASA said.	(travel)
management for lon	research focus areas during Expedition 40 9ng duration space travel, as NASA and Roscosmos 10 to spend one year aboard the orbiting laboratory in 2015," sa	(prepare) for
crewmates Reid Wis	now (command) by Max seman of NASA and Alexander Gerst of the European Space Agenembers, 12 (include). Barry Wilmore	gency.
	lena Serova of Roscosmos are due 13 (arr	
They 14	(blast) off from Kazakhstan on September 25.	
The ISS 15	(launch) in 1998. When the time 16	(come) to retire it,
the station 17	(take) out of orbit and 18 (sink) in the ocean.

Exercise 7 - Lost Arctic Ship Found after more than 160 years

The wreck of a s	hip which 1		_ (lost) in tl	he Arctic more than 160 years ago
2.	_(find).			
Two British ships 3		(set) off 4		(explore) the Northern Passage in the
Canadian Arctic in 1				
It 6	(think) that	the ships beca	ame 7	(trap) in ice as the ocean
				(go) on the voyage
10	never	(see	e) again.	
The so-called Frank mysteries of the age			e 11	(become) one of the great
The loss of the two	ships called HMS	S Erebus and H	MS Terror 12.	(lead) to one of the
largest searches in h	istory, 13	(ri	un) from 1848	to 1859.
The mystery 14exactly what 15				in part because no one knows for sure
Canadian Prime Mine evidence 16	0 0	0 0		which ship had been found, but photo o.
The discovery of the	two ships is cons	sidered one of t	he most sough	t-after prizes in marine archaeology.
A team of Canadian	divers and archae	eologists 17		(try) to find the ships since 2008.
				(be) delighted to announce that this of Canada's greatest mysteries, with the
discovery of one of t	he two ships 20		(belong) to	o the Franklin Expedition."

Exercise 8 - J. K. Rowling against Scottish Independence

J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books, 1 (announce) last week that she
2 (give) one million pounds to the Better Together campaign.
The campaign 3 (try) to convince Scottish people to say no to separation from England
Scots 4 (vote) in a referendum in September. A referendum is a question that allows a
country's people to vote about a particular issue.
On her website, jkrowling.com, Rowling 5 (write). 'This separation
6 (not be) quick and clean; it will take microsurgery 7 (disentangle)
three centuries of close interdependence."
Rowling believes a split 8 (be) bad for Scotland's economy.
But Rowling's donation is not the biggest one in this fight. The largest donation 9(make
to the team that wants independence. It $10.___$ (come) from Scottish couple Colin and Chris
Weir, who 11 (give) about 3.5 million pounds from their 2011 lottery winnings of 161
million pounds.
After 300 years, many people in Scotland say it 12(be) time to break away from England
They 13 (want) their own government and say they want to make sure their Scottish
history 14 (keep) alive. Some also 15 (believe) that their economy
would be better off if they split.
England and Scotland 16 (join) forces in 1603 when Scotland's King
17 (become) England's King as well. For three centuries, the Scots and the English have
fought together in wars, 18 (explore) foreign territories together and
19 (grow) economically together.
The referendum 20 (take) place on September 18.
the referendum 20 (take) place on September 16.

Exercise 9 - Chocolate May Soon Cost More

The price of a bar of chocolate	may soon 1	(go) up. That's l	pecause cocoa beans, the main
ingredient in chocolate, 2	(becom	e) harder to get.	
When people 3	(want) something	that is hard to get, price	es usually go up.
People around the world 4 beans can't keep up with the d		nd) more chocolate and	l the farmers who grow cocoa
This shortfall, the difference b (demand), has gone on for a lo			
Cocoa beans 7 of Africa.	(grow) in Mexico a	nd Central and South Ai	nerica, and on the West Coast
But the new demand for ch	ocolate 8	(come) mainly	from Asia, especially China,
Chocolate sales in China have new website called Quartz.com.			
The problem 10			
Jean-Marc Anga, the executiv			
(quote) as saying that coco 12(conting per cent of the value of a choco	ue) to grow the beans. N		
Last month, 12 cocoa and	abagalata gampaniag	14	(sign) an agreement that
15(promis			
According to Olam, one of thessome money, better planting n			
If this happens, it 18	(expect) that	more farmers 19	(want) to grow

Exercise 10 - "World's Best" Restaurant Serves Unique Nordic FoodRead the following article and fill in the blanks with the verb in the correct tense.

Where in the world should you 1	(eat) dinner tonight? Wel	ll, if you want the best—the
very best—head to Denmark.		
A restaurant in Copenhagen, called Noma, 2	recently	(name) the
world's top restaurant by Restaurant magazine.		
Every year the magazine 3(pu	t) out a list of the 50 best res	taurants in the world.
Noma held the top spot for three years, until it 4 year it 5 (reclaim) the title.	(bump) ou	nt of first place in 2013. This
Noma 6 (get) thousands of rec	quests for reservations each	day. It 7
(make) food that is connected with Nordic lands	scape. According to the "Wo	orld's 50 Best Restaurants"
website, the restaurant's offerings 8	(include) sea urchin t	coast, caramelized milk and
cod liver, beef tartar (raw beef) and even ants. Its st	andout dish is winter potato	cooked in fermented barley.
The website says Noma's dishes "slap you in the fa	ce and make you feel glad to	be alive."
Number two on the list of the world's best restau	cants 9 (h	oe) El Celler de Can Roca, in
Spain. A family-owned restaurant in Catalonia, it is	run by brothers Joan and Jo	sep Roca.
Their younger brother, Jordi, is the restaurant's	e nastry chaf (ha makas th	a descerts). The magazine
10(name) Jordi the world's best		
part architect and part magician."		
An Italian restaurant, Osteria Francescana, 12	(take) third p	place.
There 13(be) no Canadian rest	taurants on this year's list of t	the 50 world's best. In 2010,
a restaurant in Calgary called Rouge 14		#60 and Langdon Hall, in
Cambridge, Ontario, 15 (be) ra		cants 16
(make) the list this year, with two of them in the to	op 10.	
The magazine 17 (select) restathan 900 food experts.	urants based on recommend	ations from a panel of more
than 900 1000 experts.		

Allsweis		
Exercise 1	16. flying	9. was found
1. Hosted	17. arelearning	10. have been
2. face / are facing	18. are working	11. noticed
3. talked	19. areneeded	12. are
4. loves	20. deserves	13. are
5. picking		14. noticed
6. making	Exercise 3	15. interlocking
7. talked	1. became	16. are
8. does / is doing	2. died	17. is
9. to save / saving	3. found	18. is
10. says / said	4. remains / has remained	
11. came	5. have been struck	Exercise 5
12. to do	6. to learn	1. shields
13. to protect	7. finding	2. is showing
14. interviewed	8. happened	3. thickening
15. explained	9. looked	4. getting
16. protects	10. looked / looks	5. is found
17. creating	11. was	6. absorbs
18. protected	12. did	7. preventing
19. are	13. was thinking	8. hasstopped
	14. have discovered	9. is beginning
Exercise 2	15. happened	10. to shrink
1. helps	16. changed	11. to stop
2. looking	17. have been	12. were used
3. hampers	18. have been moved	13. found
4. loved	19. to see	14. were banned
5. looking	20. is	15. got
6. became		16. was
7. was amazed	Exercise 4	17. will get
8. did	1. unearthed	18. will take
9. are	2. has given / is giving	
10. see	3. had	Exercise 6
11. preserve	4. to dive	1. spending / having spent
12. have passed	5. werediscovered	2. were / have been
13. creating	6. were moved	3. left
14. affects	7. were destroyed	4. landed / have landed
15. fly	8. hit	5. gave

6.	spent
----	-------

- 7. orbited
- 8. travelled
- 9. was
- 10. prepare
- 11. is...commanded /is...being commanded
- 12. including
- 13. to arrive
- 14. will blast / be blasting
- 15. was launched
- 16. comes
- 17. will be taken
- 18. sunk

Exercise 7

- 1. was lost
- 2. has been found
- 3. set
- 4. to explore
- 5. returned
- 6. is thought
- 7. trapped
- 8. froze
- 9. went
- 10. were...seen
- 11. became
- 12. led
- 13. running
- 14. gripped / has gripped
- 15. happened
- 16. confirmed
- 17. has been trying

- 18. am
- 19. has solved
- 20. belonging

Exercise 8

- 1. announced
- 2. was giving / is giving
- 3. is trying
- 4. will vote
- 5. wrote
- 6. will not be
- 7. to disentangle
- 8. will be / would be
- 9. was made
- 10. came
- 11. gave
- 12. is
- 13. want
- 14. is kept
- 15. believe
- 16. joined
- 17. became
- 18. explored
- 19. grown
- 20. will take / takes

Exercise 9

- 1. go / be going
- 2. are becoming
- 3. want
- 4. are demanding
- 5. is supplied
- 6. is demanded

- 7. are grown
- 8. comes / is coming
- 9. doubled
- 10. is
- 11. has been quoted
- 12. continue / will continue
- 13. make
- 14. signed
- 15. promised
- 16. growing / to grow
- 17. will provide / provides
- 18. is expected
- 19. will want

Exercise 10

- 1. eat
- 2. was...named
- 3. puts
- 4. was bumped
- 5. reclaimed / has reclaimed
- 6. gets
- 7. makes
- 8. include
- 9. is
- 10. named / has named
- 11. calling
- 12. took
- 13. are / were
- 14. was
- 15. was
- 16. made / have made
- 17. selects / selected

Notes

The following notes give a brief outline of when certain tenses and verb forms should be used, and how they are formed.

Present Simple

	sing
You	sing
He/She/It	sings
We	sing
They	sing

- Something true in the present (I live in Hong Kong.)
- Something that happens repeatedly in the present (I eat cake every day.)
- Something that is always true (Water boils at 100 degrees.)
- Something that is fixed in the future (The train leaves at 2pm.)

Present Continuous

	am singing		
You	are singing		
He/She/It	is singing		
We	are singing		
They	are singing		

- Something happening at the moment of speaking (I am working.)
- Something happening before and after a specified time (At 7pm we are usually eating dinner.)
- Something that is temporary (I'm living with my parents for two months.)
- To show that something is changing or developing (My English is improving. Salaries are going up.)
- Something that is a definite plan in the future (I'm going on holiday next week.)
- In news reports (particularly the first sentence): **if** the news report is talking about a current situation, or a situation that is changing (not if the news report is talking about a past event)

Past Simple

	walked
You	walked
He/She/It	walked
We	walked
They	walked

- Something that happened once in the past (I went to Bali last year.)
- Something that happened repeatedly in the past (When I was abroad, I phoned my parents every day.)
- Something that was true for a long time in the past (I lived in England for five years.)

Past Continuous

	was walking		
You	were walking		
He/She/It	was walking		
We	were walking		
They	were walking		

- Something that was interrupted by another action in the past (I was eating my lunch when the doorbell rang.)
- Something that happened before and after a specified time in the past (At 9pm, I was having a bath.)
- With verbs which show change or growth in the past (The city was becoming busier.)

Present Perfect

	have walked		
You	have walked		
He/She/It	has walked		
We	have walked		
They	have walked		

- Talking about experiences you've had at an unspecified time in the past (I've been to Australia.)
- Talking about unfinished states and time periods (I have lived here for three years.)
- To show the present outcome of a past action (I have eaten dinner, so I'm not hungry.)

Present Perfect Continuous

R	have been walking		
You	have been walking		
He/She/It	has been walking		
We	have been walking		
They	have been walking		

- Talking about an unfinished action (I've been learning English. She's been watching the television series I recommended.)
- Talking about how long something has been happening (I've been working for nine hours.)

Future 'will'

	will sing
You	will sing
He/She/It	will sing
We	will sing
They	will sing

- Making predictions (It will rain on Saturday.)
- Making offers and promises (I'll give her a present.)

Participles / Gerunds

Singing	Walking

- After verbs of perception (I heard him singing.)
- As subject of the sentence (**Swimming** is good for you.)
- After prepositions (I am good at singing.)
- After certain verbs (I like singing. I remember going to London.)

To-Infinitives

To sing	To walk

- To express purpose (I go to school to learn.)
- After certain verbs (We decided to give her a present. I promise to help you.)
- To give a reason for an adjective (I was surprised to see her.)

Bare Infinitives

Sing	Walk

After modal verbs (You must sing in the choir. We should walk.)

Passive Voice

	Simple Present	Present Cont.	Past Simple	Past Cont.
1	am invited.	am being invited.	was invited.	was being invited.
You	are invited.	are being invited.	were invited.	were being invited.
He/She/It	is invited.	is being invited.	was invited.	was being invited.
We	are invited.	are being invited.	were invited.	were being invited.
They	are invited.	are being invited.	were invited.	were being invited.

	Present perfect	Pres. Perf Cont.	Future 'will'
1	have been invited.	have been being invited.	will be invited.
You	have been invited.	have been being invited.	will be invited.
He/She/It	has been invited.	has been being invited.	will be invited.
We	have been invited.	have been being invited.	will be invited.
They	have been invited.	have been being invited.	will be invited.

Bare infinitive passive = be + [past participle] = be invited
To-infinitive passive = to be + [past participle] = to be invited
Gerund passive = being + [past participle] = being invited

'would have done' or 'would do'?

'would do' is used to talk about imagined or unreal situations in the future

I would do anything to help her.

(Meaning that if she is in trouble in the future, I would help her)

'would have done' is used to talk about imagined or unreal situations in the past; it can only be used for past events, which cannot now be changed

I would have done anything to help her.

(Meaning that if she had been in trouble in the past, I would have helped, but now I cannot or will not help her)