MET Education Name: _____ Date: _____

FREE GRAMMAR PRACTICE · FORMS 1–3

Tenses in a Story: The Last Ferry

Read the whole story first. The time words show the tense.

Tense	Examples of useful tenses
past perfect	By the time we **reached** the pier, the ferry **had left**.
present perfect continuous	I **have been waiting** here for an hour.
future with will	Next time, we **will check** the ferry times first!

PART A Story gap-fill

Read the story. Fill in the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

The Last Ferry

Paul and I 1 _____ (be) best friends since primary school. Last Saturday, we 2 _____ (decide) to visit Lamma Island. We 3 _____ (have) a great day, but we 4 _____ (lose) track of time.

By the time we 5 _____ (reach) the pier, the last ferry 6 _____ (leave). For a moment, neither of us 7 _____ (say) anything. Then Paul 8 _____ (start) to laugh. "My mum 9 _____ (send) me messages for an hour," he said, showing me his phone.

Luckily, a fisherman who 10 _____ (mend) his net nearby 11 _____ (offer) us a ride in his boat. As we 12 _____ (cross) the dark water, Paul whispered, "Next time, we 13 _____ (check) the ferry times first!"

PART B Read and answer

Answer the questions.

1. Why did Paul and his friend miss the ferry?

_____

_____

Answers **A** 1 have been · 2 decided · 3 had · 4 lost · 5 reached · 6 had left · 7 said · 8 started · 9 has been sending / has sent · 10 was mending / had been mending · 11 offered · 12 crossed / were crossing · 13 will check / are going to check **B** 1 They lost track of time / stayed too long, so the ferry had left before they reached the pier.

Want more practice? Story-Based Tenses Book 4 (Forms 1–3) has story units with all the main tenses, many more exercises and an answer key. **myenglishtutorhk.com**

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