

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria  
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific

Research

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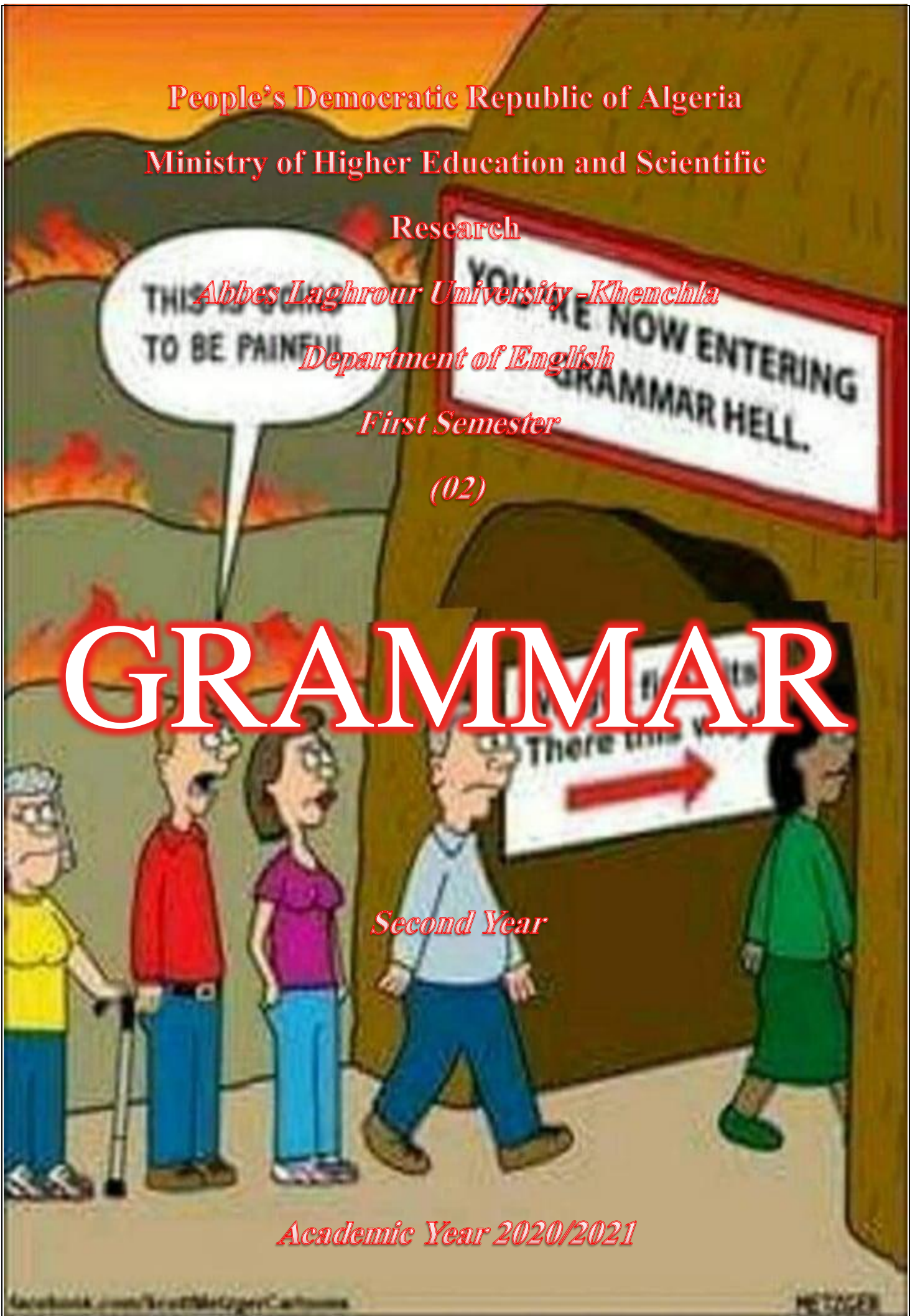
*First Semester*

*(02)*

# GRAMMAR

*Second Year*

*Academic Year 2020/2021*



## ***Present perfect and past simple***

### ***(01)***

#### **Present Perfect**

When we talk about something that happened in the past, but we don't specify precisely *when* it happened (perhaps we don't know, or it is not important to say when it happened), we use the present perfect :

- A French yachtsman **has broken** the record for sailing round the world single-handed.
- **I have complained** about the traffic before.

When we use the present perfect, it suggests some kind of connection between what happened in the past, and the present time. Often we are interested in the way that something that happened in the past affects the situation that exists now:

- **I've washed** my hands so that I can help you with the cooking.
- We can't go ahead with the meeting, because very few people **have shown** any interest. The connection with the present may also be that something happened recently, with a consequence for the present:

- I've **found** the letter you were looking for. Here it is.
- My ceiling **has fallen in** and the kitchen is flooded. Come quickly!

When we talk about *how long* an existing situation has lasted, even if we don't give a precise length of time, we use the present perfect:

- They've **grown** such a lot *since we last saw them*.
- Prices **have fallen** sharply *over the past six months*.
- We've *recently* **started** to walk to work instead of taking the bus.

We often use the present perfect to say that an action or event has been repeated a number of times up to now:

- They've been to Chile *three times*. • **I've often wished** I'd learned to read music.

#### **Past simple**

When we want to indicate that something happened at a specific time in the past, we use the past simple. We can either say when it happened, using a time adverb, or assume that the hearer already knows when it happened or can understand this from the context:

- She **arrived** at Kennedy Airport *at 2 o'clock this morning*.
- Jane **left** *just a few minutes ago*.
- Jim **decided** to continue the course, even though it was proving very difficult.

We use the past simple for situations that existed for a period of time in the past, but not now:

- When I was younger **I played** badminton for my local team.
- The Pharaohs **ruled** Egypt for thousands of years.

## Exercises

### Exercise One

*Choose a verb with either the present perfect or past simple for these sentences.*

**agree   appear   continue   disappear   move   reach   show   solve   write**

- 1 Research                    that cycling can help patients overcome their illnesses.
- 2 The rabbit just            in my garden one day last week.
- 3 With this promotion, I feel that I\_\_a turning point in my career.
- 4 Oh, no! My car\_\_\_\_\_!
- 5 Quite early in the negotiations, they\_\_to lower the prices.
- 6 In 1788 he                his last great work in Vienna.
- 7 There's not much more to do, now that we\_the main problem.
- 8 Throughout the summer of 1980 Malcolm\_to divide his time between London and New York.
- 9 When he was 13, his parents\_\_to the United States.

### Exercise Two

*Find the following: (i) three sentences that are incorrect; (ii) three sentences with the present perfect which could also have the past simple (consider the difference in meaning); (iii) three sentences where only the present perfect is correct.*

- 1 Jane has agreed to lend us her car.
- 2 Do you know how many people have walked on the moon?
- 3 Phone for an ambulance. I think Keith's broken his arm.
- 4 In his twenties, Lawrence has spent many years travelling around Spain.
- 5 The Vikings have established a settlement at what is now York, in the north of England.
- 6 The house looks so much bigger now that we've painted the walls in brighter colours.
- 7 My brother has gone into town to buy some new shoes.
- 8 The Earth has been formed about 4,500 million years ago.
- 9 I've worked in Malaysia for three years.

### Exercise Three

*Suggest a verb that can complete both sentences in each pair. Use either the present perfect or the past simple.*

- 1 **a** The price of houses            dramatically in recent years.  
**b** Unemployment            every year until 1985 and then started to fall.
- 2 **a** At his wedding he\_\_\_\_\_a green suit and red tie.  
**b** These are the glasses I\_\_\_\_\_ever since I was 30.
- 3 **a** The company            many setbacks in its 50-year history, but it is now flourishing.  
**b** Few of the trees in our village            the storms during the winter of 1991.
- 4 **a** This            his home for over 20 years and he doesn't want to leave it.  
**b** When I picked up the coffee I\_\_surprised to find it that it was cold.

## ***Present perfect and past simple***

### ***(02)***

We use the present perfect when we talk about something that happened in a period of time *up to the present*. We use the past simple to talk about something that happened at a *particular, finished* time in the past. Compare:

- Science **has made** many major advances this *and*
- Scientists **made** some fundamental discoveries in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- He puts to good use things that other people **have thrown away** *and*
- **I threw** away most of my old books when I moved house.

When we report that someone has recently invented, produced, discovered or written something we use the present perfect. When we talk about something that was invented, etc. in the more distant past we use the past simple. Compare:

- Scientist **have discovered** that, all over the world, millions of frogs and toads are dying.
- It is often said that Hernan Cortés **'discovered'** Mexico in 1519.
- Two schoolchildren **have invented** a device for moving large objects up flights of stairs.
- Chinese craftsmen **invented** both paper and printing.

Sometimes it makes very little difference to the main sense of the sentence if we think of something happening in a period of time up to the present or at a particular, finished time in the past:

- The research is now complete and the experiment **was** *{or has been}* a success.
- Does it concern you that you **failed** *(or have failed)* the test?
- I'm sure **I read** *{or I have read}* somewhere that he died in a plane crash.

We can use either the present perfect or the past simple to talk about repeated actions or events. If we use the present perfect, we often suggest that the action or event *might* happen again.

Sometimes we emphasise this with phrases such as **so far** and **up to now**. If we use the past simple, it suggests that it is finished and *won't* happen again. Compare:

- Timson **has made** 13 films and I think her latest is the best. *and*
- Timson **made** 13 films before she was tragically killed in a car accident.
- Lee **has represented** his country on many occasions, and hopes to go on to compete in the next Olympics *and*
- Lee **represented** his country on many occasions, but was forced to retire after an injury.

We can use both the present perfect and the past simple to talk about *states*. We use the present perfect to talk about a state that existed in the past and still exists now, and we use the past simple if the state no longer exists. Compare:

- **I have known** him most of my working life. (I am still working) *and*
- **I knew** him when we were both working in Rome.
- We **have belonged** to the tennis club since we moved here. (We still belong to **it.**) *and*
- We **belonged** to the tennis club in the village we used to live in.

### **Exercise One**

*Complete these sentences with the verb given. Choose the present perfect or past simple.*

- 1 According to yesterday's newspapers, astronomers in Australia\_\_\_a planet in a galaxy close to our own. (discover)  
To help today's customers make a choice, a company in New York\_\_\_\_\_a video trolley - a supermarket trolley with a video screen to display advertisements and price information. (develop)
- 2 At the start of his career, Cousteau\_\_\_ the aqualung, opening the oceans to explorers, scientists, and leisure divers.(invent)
- 3 He proudly told reporters that the company\_\_\_ software to prevent the recent increase in computer crime. (produce)
- 4 John Grigg\_\_\_\_\_the comet now called Grigg Skjellerup at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century(discover)

### **Exercise Two**

*Complete the sentences with appropriate verbs. Use the same verb for each sentence in the pair.*

*Use either the present perfect or the past simple.*

- 1 **a** A lot of people\_\_\_\_\_about the painting, and I always say it's not for sale.  
**b** The police\_\_\_\_\_me several questions about my car before they let me go.
- 2 **a** Until she retired last month, she\_\_\_in the customer complaints department.  
**b** Sullivan\_\_\_\_\_hard to change the rules and says that the campaign will go on.
- 3 **a** I\_\_\_\_\_skiing ever since I lived in Switzerland.  
**b** She once\_\_\_\_\_the support of the majority of the Democratic Party.
- 4 **a** His father\_\_\_\_\_so many complaints about the noise that he told Chris to sell his drums.  
**b** We\_\_\_\_\_over 50 letters of support in the last 10 days.
- 5 **a** *The Bible* \_\_\_\_\_more copies than any other book.  
**b** When it became clear that we would be moving to Austria, we\_the house to my brother.
- 6 **a** I \_\_\_\_\_moving to London from the day I arrived. I'd love to go back to Rome.  
**b** At first I\_\_\_\_\_inviting them to stay, but we soon became great friends.



## ***Present perfect continuous***

We use the present perfect continuous to talk about a situation or activity that started in the past and has been in progress for a period until now. Sometimes we use the present perfect continuous with expressions that indicate the time period (e.g. with *since* and *for*):

- **I've been meaning** to phone Jack *since I heard he was back in the country*.
- The competition **has been running** *every year since*
- She's **been living** in New Zealand *for over a year now*.
- People **have been saying** *for ages* that the building should be pulled down.

Without such an expression, the present perfect continuous refers to a recent situation or activity and focuses on its present results:

- Look! It's **been snowing**.
- 'You're looking well.' 'I've **been playing** a lot of squash to lose weight.'
- 'Haven't seen anything of Rod for a while.' 'No, he's **been working** in Germany.'

The situation or activity may still be going on, or it may just have stopped. Compare:

- We've been **discussing** the proposals for a number of years. (= still going on) *and*
- Your eyes are red - **have you been crying?** (= recently stopped)

We often use the present perfect continuous when we ask questions with **How long...?** and when we say how long something has been in progress:

- *How long* **have you been waiting** for me?
- *How long* **have they been living** next door to you?
- *For more than two years* **I've been trying** to get permission to extend my house.
- Unemployment **has been rising** steadily *since the huge increase in oil prices*.

We can use the present perfect continuous or a present tense (the present simple or the present continuous) when we talk about a situation or activity that started in the past and is still happening now or has just stopped. However, we use the present perfect continuous when we are talking about **how long** the action or event has been going on. Compare:

- I see Tom most *and*
- I've **been seeing** a lot of Tom since he moved into the flat *(not I see...)*
- It's *and*
- **It's been raining** heavily all *(not It's raining...)*

When we talk about situations or actions that went on over a past period of time but finished at a particular point in time before now, we don't use the present perfect continuous:

- **I was reading** until midnight last *(not I have been reading...)*
- She **had been living** in Spain before her family moved to *(not She has been living...)*
- He **put off** the decision for as long as possible, but eventually he made up his mind and bought the car. *(not He has been putting off...)*

We generally avoid the present perfect continuous with verbs that describe states.

### Exercise One

Complete the sentences with the present perfect continuous form of an appropriate verb.

- 1 The situation continues to be serious, and troops \_\_\_\_ their lives to rescue people from the floods.
- 2 Mary hasn't been at work for a while. She \_her husband get over a serious illness.
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ very hard for this exam. I hope I do well.
- 4 Because the children are older, we \_\_\_\_ of moving to a bigger house.
- 5 I \_\_\_\_\_ this suitcase around with me all day, and it's really heavy.
- 6 For several years now, Glasgow \_\_\_\_ citywide festivals to celebrate the cultures of other countries. This year the focus is on Sweden.

### Exercise Two

Rewrite each sentence using the present perfect continuous form of an appropriate verb and for or since. If necessary, look at the verbs below to help you.

- 1 Henry moved to California three years ago.
- 2 The project to send astronauts to Mars began in 1991.
- 3 Campbell began a life sentence for murder in 1992.
- 4 Colin James took over as head of the company six months ago.
- 5 Graham's knee injury began at the US Open earlier this year.
- 6 Local authorities began to invest heavily in new computer systems at the beginning of the 1990s.

*go on    invest    live    run    serve    suffer*

### Exercise Three

Underline the correct alternative.

- 1 Bullfighting *is going on* *has been going on* in Spain for centuries.
- 2 I *always find* *have always been finding* it difficult to get up on winter mornings.
- 3 I *have been wanting* *want* to meet you since I saw your concert.
- 4 Over the last six months *I've been learning* *I'm learning* how to play the flute.
- 5 The *phone's been ringing* *phone's ringing*. Can you answer it.
- 6 How long *have you learned* *have you been learning* Swahili?
- 7 During the last few years the company *has been working* *works* hard to modernise its image.

### Exercise Four

If the underlined verbs are correct, put a ✓. If they are wrong, correct them using either the past continuous or the present perfect continuous as appropriate.

- 1 I was expecting the book to end happily, but in fact it was really sad. /
- 2 The opposition groups were fighting the government on this issue for years, but so far without success.
- 3 The protesters have been campaigning for some months now to prevent the new road being built.
- 4 He has been looking nervous until I told him to sit down and relax.
- 5 Work to repair the bridge has been continuing throughout this summer.
- 6 Before she retrained as a computer programmer she has been working as a secretary.
- 7 I was receiving the magazine for some time and enjoy reading it immensely.

## ***Past continuous and past simple***

To talk about a temporary situation that existed at or around a particular time in the past, we use the past continuous:

- At the time of the robbery, they **were staying** with my parents.
- My head **was aching** again, so I went home.

Compare the use of the past continuous and the past simple in these sentences:

- She **was shaking** with anger as she **left** the hotel.
- When he realised **I was looking** at him, he **turned** away.
- Erika **dropped** her bag while she **was getting** into her car.

We often use the past simple to talk about a completed past event and the past continuous to describe the situation that existed at the time. The completed event might have interrupted the situation, or just occurred while the situation or event was in progress.

We don't normally use the past continuous with certain verbs describing states:

- This house **belonged to** the King of Sweden. (*not ...was belonging to...*)

When we talk about two past actions or events that went on over the same period of time, we can often use the past continuous for both:

- Sally **was reading** to the children while Kevin **was washing up**.
- Mario **was working** in a restaurant when **I was living** in London.

However, we can often use the past simple to express a similar meaning:

- Mario **worked** in a restaurant while he **lived** in London. (*or ...was living in London.*)

When we talk about two or more past completed events that follow each other, we use the past simple for both. The first may have caused the second:

- She **got** up when the alarm clock **went** off.
- **He jumped** out of bed and **ran** to see who the parcel was for.

When we talk about a *permanent* or long-term situation that existed in the past, we use the past simple rather than the past continuous:

- When I was a child **I played** the violin. (*not ...I was playing...*)

However, if the situation was *temporary*, we can also use the past continuous. Compare:

- **I was working** in a car factory during the summer of 1976. (*or I worked...*) *and*
- He **worked** hard all his life. (*not He was working...*)



### **Exercise One**

*Complete the sentences with one of these verbs: **be, enjoy, have, live**. Use the same verb for each sentence in the pair. In one, you can use only the past simple; in the other you can use either the past simple or the past continuous.*

- 1 a It was now getting late, and my eyes trouble focusing on the birds in the disappearing light.  
b I\_\_ trouble with that car the whole of the time I owned it.
- 2 a As a historian, I'm interested in how people in the past.  
b During that hard winter, people by selling what few remaining possessions they had.
- 3 a She very good at talking to children in a way that kept them entertained.  
b Before the party, the children got very excited and naughty.
- 4 a He learning Japanese until the class had a new teacher.  
b Even when he was young, Jonathan learning languages.

### **Exercise Two**

*Correct the sentences if necessary or put a ✓.*

- 2 Whenever I called in on Sam, he talked on the phone.
- 3 When I lived in Paris, I was spending three hours a day travelling to and from work.
- 4 Peterson was winning the tournament four times before he retired.
- 5 We were having to play netball twice a week when I went to school.
- 6 The weather was so good last summer that we went to the beach most weekends.

## ***Past perfect and past simple***

We use the past perfect to talk about a past situation or activity that took place before another past situation or activity, or before a particular time in the past:

- ✓ Jo discovered that Leslie **had lied** to her.
- ✓ As Mary shook Mr Morgan's hand, she realised she **had seen** him before.

We use the past simple rather than the past perfect when we simply talk about a single activity or event in the past:

- ✓ **I handed** the letter to him.
- ✓ Sorry we're late, we **took** the wrong turning.

We use the past perfect when we say what we wanted or hoped (etc.) to do, but didn't:

- ✓ **I had wanted** to visit the gallery before I left Florence, but it's closed on Sundays.
- ✓ Bill **had hoped** to retire at 60, but they persuaded him to stay on for a few more years.

Other verbs used like this include **expect (to), mean (to), think (about + -ing)**.

With **already** and **just** (= a very short time before) we use the past perfect, not the past simple:

- ✓ The film **had already begun** by the time we got to the cinema.
- ✓ She **had just stepped** into her office when the telephone rang.

### Exercise One

*Underline the correct answer.*

- 1 Alice felt very pleased with herself. She *had found* /*found* what she was looking for.
- 2 'Where are we?' *had asked* /*asked* Martha.
- 3 By the time I got back to the bathroom, the bath *had overflowed* / *overflowed*.
- 4 She walked into the station only to find that the train *had left* /*left*.
- 5 I was just about to leave when I *had remembered* / *remembered* my briefcase.
- 6 My sister told me that Joe *had died* / *died*.
- 7 He *had looked* /*looked* at his watch again and began to walk even faster.
- 8 In a surprise move, the Prime Minister *had resigned* /*resigned* last night.

### Exercise Two

*These things happened in the order given in brackets (e.g. in 1, most people went home and, sometime after that, I got to the party). Write sentences using this information beginning with the words given. Use either the past simple or the past perfect.*

- 1 (most people went home / got to the party) **By the time**.....
- 2 (Glen opened the book / some pages fell out) **When**.....
- 3 (the fox disappear / we went back to look for it) **When**...
- 4 (she picked up her bag / the handle broke) **When**.....

### Exercise Three

*Use these pairs of verbs to complete the sentences. Choose the past perfect where possible; otherwise, use the past simple.*

*turn/caught come/start eat/pick check/go type/give collapse/phone*

- 1 After Michael the letter, he \_\_\_\_\_ it to Kay to sign.
- 2 When she \_\_\_\_\_ into the hall, everyone \_\_\_\_\_ cheering.
- 3 When Jenny \_\_\_\_\_ that the children were asleep, she \_\_\_\_\_ out to the concert.
- 4 As soon as I \_\_\_\_\_ the ignition key, the engine \_\_\_\_\_ fire.
- 5 When \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_ for an ambulance.
- 6 After they \_\_\_\_\_ all the food, they \_\_\_\_\_ up their bags and left.

## ***Past perfect continuous and past perfect***

We use the past perfect continuous when we talk about a situation or activity that happened over a period up to a particular past time, or until shortly before it.

- They **had been expecting** the news for some time.
- She **had been wearing** high-heeled shoes, and her feet hurt.
- Mason was arrested, even though he **hadn't been doing** anything illegal.

We use the past perfect continuous when we talk about the *continuity* or *duration* of a situation or activity, and the past perfect to talk about the *completion* of a situation or activity or its *effects*.

Sometimes the difference between them is simply one of emphasis

- **I'd been working hard**, so **I** felt that I deserved a      (emphasises the activity)
- **I'd worked hard**, and the report was now finished, (emphasises the result)

If we talk about *how long* something went on up to a particular past time, we prefer the past perfect continuous. If we talk about *how many* times something happened in a period up to a particular past time, we use the past perfect.

- They **had been travelling** for about 36 hours.    (*rather than* They had travelled...)
- We **had been looking** at the painting for about ten minutes before we realised who the artist was. (*rather than* We had looked...)
- **I'd heard** the symphony many times before.    (*not* I'd been hearing...)
- The teacher **had let** them get away with their bad behaviour once too often.    (*not* ...had been letting them...)

However, some verbs that describe *states* are not often used with continuous tenses, and we use the past perfect with these even when we are talking about how long something went on up to a particular past time:

- I **had** always **believed** that it would be easy to get a job. (*not* I had always been believing...)
- We **had owned** the car for 6 months before we discovered it was    (*not* We had been owning...)

### Exercise One

Complete these sentences using one of the following. Use the past perfect continuous. (You will need to use a negative verb form in some cases.)

Pay/bills   stay/friends   smoke/cigar   try/to steal/ car   attend/classes   cycle/quite fast

1. She returned to the house where she .....
2. Sue ..... until she reached the hill.
3. By the smell in the room and his guilty expression I could tell that Alex \_\_\_\_
4. The principal called Carmen into his office because she \_
5. I had to give Peter some money when I found out that he \_
6. He told the police that he \_\_\_\_\_. He said he thought it belonged to his brother.

### Exercise Two

Complete the sentences with appropriate verbs, using the same one for each sentence in the pair. Use the past perfect continuous if it is possible; if not, use the past perfect.

- 1 a She took a bottle from the bag she \_\_\_\_ all the way from home.  
b The avalanche \_\_\_\_\_ them 500 metres down the mountain but no-one was hurt.
- 2 a We \_\_\_\_\_ for visas well before our departure date, but still hadn't heard anything by the day we were due to leave.  
b She \_\_\_\_\_ for jobs, without success, since leaving university.
- 3 a He \_\_\_\_\_ all the way from New York to see me.  
b When the plane was diverted, it \_\_\_\_\_ from London to Frankfurt.
- 4 a She \_\_\_\_\_ for the same company since she qualified.  
b He \_\_\_\_\_ finally \_\_\_\_\_ his way up from the shop floor to a management position.

### Exercise Three

Choose the past perfect continuous form of the verb if appropriate. If not, use the past perfect.

- 1 Andrew died last week. He \_\_\_\_\_ from cancer for some time. (suffer)
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ the view many times before, but it never failed to impress me. (see)
- 3 The opposing sides in the war \_\_\_\_\_ since the president was overthrown. (fight)
- 4 I \_\_\_\_\_ Megan since we were at school together. (know)
- 5 For years we \_\_\_\_\_ about buying new carpets, and last weekend we finally went out and ordered some. (talk)
- 6 My car was once again in the garage for repairs. This was the third time it \_\_\_\_\_ since I got it. (break down)
- 7 Before now we \_\_\_\_\_ on where to go on holiday. (always agree)