

I'm not robot!

Exercise 37

Cumulative Review of the Past Tense

Fill in the spaces with the correct form of the verb in any aspect of the past tense.



Eric and Ilsa are brother and sister. They (grow) _____ up together in the city that used to be known as West Berlin, in the former West Germany. Eric (move) _____ to the United States decades ago, before the eastern and western parts of both Berlin and Germany were reunited in 1990.

Ilsa and her family (visit) _____ Eric and his family last year. Ilsa's family (fly) _____ from Berlin to Detroit for the visit. Although the children (never, meet) _____ before, except through e-mail, the families (have) _____ a great time together.

Every day for a week, the adults and the children (play) _____, talking, and eating together. One day, they (cook) _____ some German recipes that (be) _____ in the family for generations. For years, Ilsa (save) _____ them and treasuring them in a box their mother (give) _____ her just before she (die) _____. One of their mother's favorites (be) _____ a dessert called Apple Kuchen.

One night after everyone else (already, go) _____ to bed, Eric and Ilsa (quietly, sit) _____ and talking.

"What have you (miss) _____ most about Berlin?" Ilsa wanted to know.

Eric (pause) _____, then answered, "Mostly, I miss living in a city with such wonderful landmarks. The kids and I (look) _____ at some books about Berlin and Germany for a while before you and your family (arrive) _____. We (discuss) _____ the Brandenburg Gate when Franz interrupted to ask why its image (use) _____ as a design on some of the coins back when Germany had converted its money to euros."

"What (do) _____ you tell him?" Ilsa asked.

"I (say) _____ that I (not, be) _____ sure," answered Eric, "but that I (think) _____ it was because the gate (become) _____ a symbol for Germany, like the Statue of Liberty had emerged as a symbol for the United States."

Narrative tenses worksheet - Exercises 1

- Put the verb in brackets into the correct form in the gap **AFTER** the verb. Where no verb is given, put the following linking words into the gaps:

While / finally / and / although / however / as soon as / then / before / when

One evening Paul (watch) _____ the television _____ (cat) _____ his supper _____ the door suddenly (open) _____ and a burglar (come) _____ in. He (wear) _____ a mask and (carry) _____ a sack. _____ doing anything else he (tie) _____ Paul to the chair. _____ he went upstairs to look for money. _____ he (not find) _____ any money he (find) _____ a lot of jewellery, which he (put) _____ into his sack. In his rush to get downstairs he (not see) _____ the dog (lie) _____ at the bottom of the stairs, and he (fall) _____ over it, losing his glasses. _____ the burglar (look for) _____ them, Paul (try) _____ to free himself. _____ Paul (manage) _____ to escape and he (phone) _____ the police. _____ the burglar (find) _____ his glasses he (run) _____ out of the house. _____ unfortunately for him, the police (wait) _____ for him at the end of the garden.

- Put the verb in brackets into the correct form. **Where possible**, use 'used to' and 'would'.

Charles Dickens _____ (born) in 1812 in Portsmouth. The family _____ (move) to London in 1823. When he was twelve he _____ (work) in a blacking factory. He worked by a window facing the street and passersby _____ (pause) and watch him at work. Every day he _____ (trudge) through the London streets from Camden Town to Southwark. His family _____ (be) very poor. His mother _____ (hope) to open a small school. While she _____ (try) to do this, her husband _____ (send) to prison for being £40 in debt. When Charles _____ (be) twenty-four, his first work, *sketches by Boz*, _____ (publish). This _____ (follow) by *Pickwick Papers* with which he _____ (achieve) financial security and popularity. For the rest of his life, work simply _____ (pour) from his pen. He _____ (die) of a stroke in 1870.

Read the following texts and fill in the blank spaces with the correct form of the verbs given in brackets (tense, aspect, voice, mood). Use appropriate modals and negation only where indicated. Be sure to put the given adverbs in the correct position.

a) Taken from: *The Best a Man Can Get* by John O'Farrell

I found it hard working really long hours when I was my own boss. The boss _____ kept _____ (keep) _____ giving _____ (give) me the afternoon off. Sometimes he _____ gave _____ (give) me the morning off as well. Sometimes he _____ said _____ (say), "Look, you _____ have worked _____ (work) pretty hard today, why _____ don't you take _____ (not take, you) a well-earned rest tomorrow?" If I _____ overslept _____ (oversleep) he never _____ rang _____ (ring) me _____ to ask _____ (ask) where I _____ was _____ (be); if I _____ was _____ (be) late to my desk he always _____ happened _____ (happen) _____ to turn up _____ (turn up) at exactly the same time; whatever excuse I _____ came up with _____ (come up with), he always _____ believed _____ (believe) it. _____ Being _____ (be) my own boss _____ was _____ (be) great; _____ Being _____ (be) my own employee _____ was _____ (be) a disaster, but I never _____ thought about _____ (think about) that side of the equation.

On this particular day I _____ was woken _____ (wake) by the sound of children. I _____ knew _____ (know) from experience that this _____ meant _____ (mean) it _____ was _____ (be) either just before nine o'clock in the morning, when children _____ started _____ (start) _____ arriving _____ (arrive) at the school over the road, or around quarter past eleven - mid-morning playtime. I _____ rolled _____ (roll) over _____ to look _____ (look) at the clock and the little numbers on my radio alarm _____ informed _____ (inform) me that it _____ was _____ (be) 1.24. Lunchtime. I _____ had slept _____ (sleep) for fourteen solid hours, an all-time record.

I _____ called _____ (call) it my radio alarm, though in reality it _____ served _____ (serve) only as a large and cumbersome clock. I _____ had given up _____ (give up) _____ using _____ (use) the radio alarm function long before, after I _____ had kept _____ (keep) _____ waking up _____ (wake up) with early morning erections to the news that famine _____ was spreading _____ (spread) in the Sudan or that Princess Anne _____ just had _____ (have, just) her wisdom teeth out. It's amazing how quickly an erection _____ can disappear _____ (modal: general possibility, disappear). Anyway, alarm clocks are for people who _____ have _____ (have) something more important _____ to do _____ (do) than _____ sleeping _____ (sleep), and this was a concept that I _____ struggled _____

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