Contents

Thanks vii To the student viii To the teacher x

Present and past

- 1 Present continuous (I am doing)
- 2 Present simple (I do)
- 3 Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)
- 4 Present continuous and present simple 2 (I am doing and I do)
- 5 Past simple (I did)
- 6 Past continuous (I was doing)

Present perfect and past

- 7 Present perfect 1 (I have done)
- 8 Present perfect 2 (I have done)
- 9 Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)
- 10 Present perfect continuous and simple (I have been doing and I have done)
- 11 how long have you (been) ...?
- 12 for and since when ... ? and how long ... ?
- 13 Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)
- 14 Present perfect and past 2 (I have done and I did)
- 15 Past perfect (I had done)
- 16 Past perfect continuous (I had been doing)
- 17 have and have got
- 18 used to (do)

Future

- 19 Present tenses (I am doing / I do) for the future
- 20 I'm going to (do)
- 21 will and shall 1
- 22 will and shall 2
- 23 I will and I'm going to
- 24 will be doing and will have done
- 25 when I do and when I've done if and when

Modals

- 26 can, could and (be) able to
- 27 could (do) and could have (done)
- 28 must and can't
- 29 may and might 1
- 30 may and might 2
- 31 have to and must
- 32 must mustn't needn't
- 33 **should** 1
- 34 **should** 2
- 35 I'd better ... it's time ...
- 36 would
- 37 can/could/would you ... ? etc. (Requests, offers, permission and invitations)

if and wish

- 38 if I do ... and if I did ...
- 39 if I knew ... I wish I knew ...
- 40 if I had known ... I wish I had known ...
- 41 wish

Passive

- 42 Passive 1 (is done / was done)
- 43 Passive 2 (be done / been done / being done)
- 44 Passive 3
- 45 it is said that ... he is said to ... he is supposed to ...
- 46 have something done

Reported speech

- 47 Reported speech 1 (he said that ...)
- 48 Reported speech 2

Questions and auxiliary verbs

- 49 Questions 1
- 50 Questions 2 (do you know where ...? / he asked me where ...)
- 51 Auxiliary verbs (have/do/can etc.) I think so / I hope so etc.
- 52 Question tags (do you? isn't it? etc.)

-ing and to ...

- 53 Verb + -ing (enjoy doing / stop doing etc.)
- 54 Verb + to ... (decide to ... / forget to ... etc.)
- 55 Verb (+ object) + to ... (I want you to ...)
- 56 Verb + -ing or to ... 1 (remember, regret etc.)
- 57 Verb + -ing or to ... 2 (try, need, help)
- 58 Verb + -ing or to ... 3 (like / would like etc.)
- 59 prefer and would rather
- 60 Preposition (in/for/about etc.) + -ing
- 61 be/get used to ... (I'm used to ...)
- 62 Verb + preposition + -ing (succeed in -ing / insist on -ing etc.)
- 63 there's no point in -ing, it's worth -ing etc.
- 64 to ..., for ... and so that ...
- 65 Adjective + to ...
- 66 to ... (afraid to do) and preposition + -ing (afraid of -ing)
- 67 see somebody do and see somebody doing
- 68 -ing clauses (He hurt his knee playing football.)

Articles and nouns

- 69 Countable and uncountable 1
- 70 Countable and uncountable 2
- 71 Countable nouns with **a**/**an** and **some**
- 72 a/an and the
- 73 **the** 1
- 74 the 2 (school / the school etc.)
- 75 the 3 (children / the children)
- 76 the 4 (the giraffe / the telephone / the old etc.)
- 77 Names with and without **the** 1

- 78 Names with and without the 2
- 79 Singular and plural
- 80 Noun + noun (a **bus driver** / a **headache**)
- 81 -'s (your sister's name) and of ... (the name of the book)

Pronouns and determiners

- 82 myself/yourself/themselves etc.
- 83 a friend of mine my own house on my own / by myself
- 84 there ... and it ...
- 85 some and any
- 86 no/none/any nothing/nobody etc.
- 87 much, many, little, few, a lot, plenty
- 88 all / all of most / most of no / none of etc.
- 89 both / both of neither / neither of either / either of
- 90 all every whole
- 91 each and every

Relative clauses

- 92 Relative clauses 1: clauses with who/that/which
- 93 Relative clauses 2: clauses with and without who/that/which
- 94 Relative clauses 3: whose/whom/where
- 95 Relative clauses 4: extra information clauses (1)
- 96 Relative clauses 5: extra information clauses (2)
- 97 -ing and -ed clauses (the woman talking to Tom, the boy injured in the accident)

Adjectives and adverbs

- 98 Adjectives ending in -ing and -ed (boring/bored etc.)
- 99 Adjectives: a nice new house, you look tired
- 100 Adjectives and adverbs 1 (quick/quickly)
- 101 Adjectives and adverbs 2 (well, fast, late, hard/hardly)
- 102 so and such
- 103 enough and too
- 104 quite, pretty, rather and fairly
- 105 Comparative 1 (cheaper, more expensive etc.)
- 106 Comparative 2 (**much better** / **any better** etc.)
- 107 Comparative 3 (as ... as / than)
- 108 Superlative (the longest, the most enjoyable etc.)
- 109 Word order 1: verb + object; place and time
- 110 Word order 2: adverbs with the verb
- 111 still any more yet already
- 112 even

Conjunctions and prepositions

- 113 although though even though in spite of despite
- 114 in case
- 115 unless as long as provided
- 116 **as** (**as** | walked ... / **as** | was ... etc.)
- 117 like and as
- 118 like as if
- 119 during for while
- 120 by and until by the time ...

Prepositions

- 121 **at/on/in** (time)
- 122 on time and in time at the end and in the end
- 123 in/at/on (position) 1
- 124 **in/at/on** (position) 2
- 125 in/at/on (position) 3
- 126 to, at, in and into
- 127 in/on/at (other uses)
- 128 **by**
- 129 Noun + preposition (reason for, cause of etc.)
- 130 Adjective + preposition 1
- 131 Adjective + preposition 2
- 132 Verb + preposition 1 to and at
- 133 Verb + preposition 2 **about/for/of/after**
- 134 Verb + preposition 3 **about** and **of**
- 135 Verb + preposition 4 of/for/from/on
- 136 Verb + preposition 5 in/into/with/to/on

Phrasal verbs

- 137 Phrasal verbs 1 Introduction
- 138 Phrasal verbs 2 in/out
- 139 Phrasal verbs 3 out
- 140 Phrasal verbs 4 **on/off** (1)
- 141 Phrasal verbs 5 on/off (2)
- 142 Phrasal verbs 6 up/down
- 143 Phrasal verbs 7 **up** (1)
- 144 Phrasal verbs 8 up (2)
- 145 Phrasal verbs 9 away/back
- Appendix 1 Regular and irregular verbs 292
 Appendix 2 Present and past tenses 294
 Appendix 3 The future 295
 Appendix 4 Modal verbs (can/could/will/would etc.) 296
 Appendix 5 Short forms (I'm / you've / didn't etc.) 297
 Appendix 6 Spelling 298
 Appendix 7 American English 300
- Additional exercises 302
- Study guide 326

Key to Exercises 336 Key to Additional exercises 368 Key to Study guide 372

Index 373

Present continuous (I am doing)



Uni

Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work. She's driving to work. (= She is driving ...)

This means: she is driving *now*, at the time of speaking. The action is not finished.

am/is/are + -ing is the present continuous:

T	am	(= 'm)	driving
he/she/it	is	(= he 's etc.)	working
we/you/they	are	(= we 're etc.)	doing etc.



I am doing something = I started doing it and I haven't finished; I'm in the middle of doing it.

- Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying to work. (not I try)
- 'Where's Mark?' 'He's having a shower.' (*not* He has a shower)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more. (*not* It doesn't rain)
- How's your new job? Are you enjoying it?
- What's all that noise? What's going on? or What's happening?

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



I'm reading a really good book at the moment. It's about a man who ...

> Steve says **'I'm reading**...' but he is *not* reading the book at the time of speaking. He means that he has started reading the book, but has not finished it yet. He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's learning Italian.
 - (but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking)
- Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

You can use the present continuous with today / this week / this year etc. (periods around now):

- A: You're working hard today. (not You work hard today)
- в: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for isn't doing so well this year.



We use the present continuous when we talk about a change that has started to happen. We often use these verbs in this way:

getting, becoming starting, beginning

changing, improving increasing, rising, falling, growing

- Is your English **getting** better? (*not* Does your English get better)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not* increases)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I'm starting to enjoy it now. (*not* I start)

What	's happening	in the pictu	res? Choc	ose from	these ve	rbs:		
cros		scratch	take	tie	wave			
	A		3		4			
2 H	<u>She's taking</u> e	1.			5			his head. behind a tree to somebody
The s	entences on	the right foll	ow those	on the le	ft. Whic	h sentence g	goes with v	/hich?
2 W 3 l c 4 l r 5 Tl 6 Tl 7 lt	lease don't m /e need to lead don't have any need to eat so hey don't nee hings are not s isn't true wha /e're going to g	ve soon. where to live mething soor d their car an so good at wo t they say.	e right now n. y more.	r. c d e f - g	They're l It's starti They're t It's gettir I'm trying I'm stayin	ng to rain. rying to sell	ds.	1f. 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
2 Wh 3 Wh 4 Tha 5 Am 6 Wh	at's the matte lere's your mo aven't seen yo ly is a student lo are those pe	r? ther? u for ages. cople?					(what / y	
								/ you / walk / so fas
1 Plea 2 Let 3 You	ne verb into t ase don't mak 's go out now. u can turn off t	ke so much no It isn't ro he radio.	oise. <mark>I'm</mark> <u>wining</u> (it	trying : / rain) ar	(I / try) to y more. (o work. I / listen) to i	t.	
4 Kat		night. She's	on holiday	/ with frie				(She / have)
5 And 6 Pau	drew started e	vening classe	es recently.					n) Japanese. (they / speak
8 Tim	e situation is a 1		(worł	k) today.	He's take	n the day off	f.	vorse.
10 The	e washing mad	chine has bee	n repaired				(It / work	
12 Ber	n is a student,	but he's not v	ery happy				(He / enjo	r year. by) his course. ook at those clouds
	ink it's going t					ne weather /	change). L	ook at those clouds

I think it's going to rain.
14 Dan has been in the same job for a long time. (He / start) to get bored with it.

Unit

Unit 2	Present sim	ple (I do)				
		bhose reubics				
A	Study this example situat	ion:	He is not drivir <i>but</i> He drives	ng a bus. (He is a bus. He is a		
			I/we/you/the			
	200	e J	he/she/	/it drives/w	orks/does etc.	
	 I usually go awa The earth goes The cafe opens We say: I work but they teach but For spelling (-s or -es), so 	er patients in hospita ay at weekends. round the sun. at 7.30 in the mornin he works my sister teaches ee Appendix 6.	als. ng. you go I have			
С	We use do/does to make do I/we/you/they does he/she/it	work?	ve/you/they do	n't esn't do	an balandi album Marin Unangen Marin Van Salahan Marin Van Salahan Salahan	
	 I don't go away What does this Rice doesn't go In the following example 'What do you d 	nada. Where do you y very often. word mean ? (<i>not</i> W row in cold climates	Vhat means this w n verb (do you do p.'		c.):	
D	How often doJulie doesn't do	le to say how often v lock every morning you go to the dentis I rink tea very often goes away two or tl	g . t?	r.		
E		by saying somethin	st something, you			
	What do you s	uggest I do?' 'I su		, en san centra		

4

>>

cause(s)	close(s)	connect(s)	go(es)	live(s)	speak(s)	take(s)	
 Ben and school. Bad drivi 	ng	nan very well. to the si many acc at 4 o'clo	idents.	flat. 6 The ever	Olympic Gam y four years.	es	plac
Sundays.					ntic and Pacifi		erre
	b into the cor						
 What tim I have a c Where What What Look at th David isn It 	e ar, but I nis sentence. V 't very fit. He	(not / drink) te Vhat	(th (Maria) (you / c (take) me ar	e banks / cl 	e) it much. n? Is she Span n electrician.' (this word / ot / do) any sp	(mean)?	ong
		using these ver			ed the negat	ive.	
believe	eat flo	W					
		0 0	grow n	nake ris		translate	
 2 Rice do 3 The sun do 4 Bees do 5 Vegetaria 	<u>goes</u> rour esn't grow i	nd the sun. n cold climates. in ti honey.	ne east. meat.	7 An ir from8 Liars the t9 The	nterpreter one language are people w ruth. River Amazon	e into another. ho	
 Rice do The sun 4 Bees 5 Vegetaria 6 An atheis 	<u>goes</u> rour esn't grow j ns	nd the sun. n cold climates. in th 	ne east. meat. God.	7 An ir from8 Liars the t9 The into	nterpreter one language are people w ruth. River Amazon the Atlantic Od	e into another. ho	
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1 Mr Evans is not in the office today. <u>I suggest</u> you try calling him tomorrow.

2 I won't tell anybody what you said.

3 (in a restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal.

4 _____ for what I said. I shouldn't have said it.

5 The new restaurant in Baker Street is very good.

6 I think you're absolutely right. with you.

5

..... it.

Unit

Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)

A Compare:

present continuous (I am doing)

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking. The action is not complete.

present simple (I do)

We use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

I am doing

 past
 now
 future

O
 The water is boiling. Be careful.

- Listen to those people. What language are they speaking?
- Let's go out. It **isn't raining** now.
- 'I'm busy.' 'What are you doing?'
- I'**m getting** hungry. Let's go and eat.
- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's learning Italian.
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast.

We use the continuous for *temporary* situations (things that continue for a short time):

- I'm living with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- A: You're working hard today.
 B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

See Unit 1 for more information.

I do past now future Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius. Excuse me, do you speak English? It doesn't rain very much in summer. What do you usually do at weekends? I always get hungry in the afternoon. Most people learn to swim when they are children.

 Every day the population of the world increases by about 200,000 people.

We use the simple for *permanent* situations (things that continue for a long time):

- O My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their lives.
- O Joe isn't lazy. He **works** hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

I always do and I'm always doing

I **always do** something = I do it every time: I **always go** to work by car. (*not* I'm always going)

I'm always doing something = I do it too often or more often than normal. For example:



I'**m always losing** them = I lose them too often, or more often than normal.

Paul is never satisfied. He's always complaining. (= he complains too much)
You're always looking at your phone. Don't you have anything else to do?

Exercises	Unit
	3
3.1 Are the <u>underlined</u> verbs OK? Correct them where necessary	/.
1 Water <u>boils</u> at 100 degrees Celsius.	OK
2 How often are you going to the cinema?	do you go
3 Ben <u>tries</u> to find a job, but he hasn't had any luck yet.	
4 Martina is phoning her mother every day.	
5 The moon goes round the earth in about 27 days.	
6 Can you hear those people? What <u>do they talk</u> about?	
7 What <u>do you do</u> in your spare time?	
8 Sarah is a vegetarian. She <u>doesn't eat</u> meat.	
9 I must go now. It <u>gets</u> late.	
10 'Come on! It's time to leave.' 'OK, I <u>come</u> .'	
11 Paul is never late. He <u>'s always starting</u> work on time.	
12 They don't get on well. They're always arguing.	
3.2 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or pre	esent simple.
1 a usually get (I / usually / get) hungry in the afternoon.	анан на п. Б оба
b <u>l'm getting</u> (I / get) hungry. Let's go and eat something.	
2 a ' (you / listen) to the ra	adio?' 'No, you can turn it off.'
b ' (you / listen) to the ra	idio a lot?' 'No, not very often.'
3 a The River Nile (flow) into the	Mediterranean.
b The river (flow) very fast toda	ay – much faster than usual.
4 a l'm not very active	
b What(you / usually / c	do) at weekends?
5 a Rachel is in New York right now.	
b	nere when she's in New York.
a second the time time terr form, present continuous of pre	
1 Why are all these people here? What's happening (What /	
2 Julia is good at languages	e / speak) four languages very well.
3 Are you ready yet?	ybody / wait) for you.
4 I've never heard this word. How	(you / pronounce) it?
5 Kate	ek. She's on holiday.
6 I think my English (improve) slo	wly. It's better than it was.
7 Nicola	e has never lived anywhere else.
8 Can we stop walking soon?	
9 Sam and Tina are in Madrid right now.	(They / visit) a friend of theirs.
10 'What (your father / do)?'	'He's an architect.'
11 It took me an hour to get to work this morning. Most days	
(it / not / take) so long.	
12	est is next month. My father
(teach) me.	
3.4 Finish B's sentences. Use always -ing.	
1 A: I've lost my keys again.	
B: Not again! You're always losing your keys	
2 A: The car has broken down again.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
B: That car is useless. It	
3 A: Look! You've made the same mistake again.	•
B: Oh no, not again! I	
4 A: Oh, I've left my phone at home again.	•
B: Typical!	

7

Unit A

Present continuous and present simple 2 (I am doing and I do)

We use continuous forms (I'm waiting, it's raining etc.) for actions and happenings that have started but not finished.

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in this way. We don't say 'I am knowing', 'they are liking'. We say 'I **know**', 'they **like**'.

The following verbs are not normally used in the present continuous:

like	want	need	р	refer	
know	realise	ur	nderst	and	recognise
believe	supp	ose	rem	ember	mean
belong	fit	conta	ain	consis	t seem

- I'm hungry. I want something to eat. (not I'm wanting)
- **Do** you **understand** what I **mean**?
- Anna doesn't seem very happy right now.

think

-

When think means 'believe' or 'have an opinion', we do not use the continuous:

- O I think Mary is Canadian, but I'm not sure. (not I'm thinking)
- What **do** you **think** of my idea? (= what is your opinion?)

When think means 'consider', the continuous is possible:

- I'm thinking about what happened. I often think about it.
- Nicky is thinking of giving up her job. (= she is considering it)

С	see	hear	smell	taste	look	feel	
li e gal Ijev	We norm	Do you The roo	the present see that ma om smells. I up doesn't	n over the _et's open	re?(<i>not</i> ar a window.	ous) with see/hear/smell/taste : are you seeing) ⁄.	
	You can	You loo	k well today	. or You	're lookin	say how somebody looks or feels now: ng well today. ou feeling now?	
	but						
	\bigcirc	Iusuall	y feel tired in	n the morr	ning. (<i>not</i> l'	I'm usually feeling)	
D	am/is/a	are bein	g				
	You can	l can't i (being	understand v selfish = beł	vhy he 's b having selfi	eing so sel shly now)		
	\bigcirc	'The pa	th is icy. Do	n't slip.' '	Don't worr	rry. I'm being very careful.'	
	Compar	He nev (= he is	er thinks abo selfish gene like to take ri	rally, not o	nly now)	e 's very selfish. ful person.	
	We use It is not	usually p	re being to possible in ot ill. (<i>not</i> is be	her situati	person is <i>b</i> ons:	<i>behaving</i> (= doing something they can contr	ol) now.

Are you tired? (not are you being tired)



- 7 You're very quiet. What are you thinking about?

4.4 Complete the sentences. Use is/are being (continuous) or is/are (simple).

- 1 I can't understand why he's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
- 2 You'll like Sophie when you meet her. She very nice.
- 3 Sarah very nice to me at the moment. I wonder why.
- 4 They very happy. They've just got married.
- 5 You're normally very patient, so why so unreasonable about waiting ten more minutes?

Additional exercises

These exercises are divided into the following sections:

0	
Present and past (Units 1–6)	Exercise 1
Present and past (Units 1–14)	Exercises 2–4
Present and past (Units 1–17)	Exercises 5–8
Past continuous and used to (Units 6, 18)	Exercise 9
The future (Units 19–25)	Exercises 10–13
Past, present and future (Units 1–25)	Exercises 14–15
Modal verbs (can/must/would etc.) (Units 26–36)	Exercises 16–18
if (conditional) (Units 25, 38–40)	Exercises 19–21
Passive (Units 42–45)	Exercises 22–24
Reported speech (Units 47–48, 50)	Exercise 25
-ing and to (Units 53–66)	Exercises 26–28
a/an and the (Units 69–78)	Exercise 29
Pronouns and determiners (Units 82–91)	Exercise 30
Adjectives and adverbs (Units 98–108)	Exercise 31
Conjunctions (Units 25, 38, 112–118)	Exercise 32
Prepositions (time) (Units 12, 119–122)	Exercise 33
Prepositions (position etc.) (Units 123–128)	Exercise 34
Noun/adjective + preposition (Units 129–131)	Exercise 35
Verb + preposition (Units 132–136)	Exercise 36
Phrasal verbs (Units 137–145)	Exercises 37–41

Present and past

Units 1–6, Appendix 2

Put the verb into the correct form: present simple (I do), present continuous (I am doing), past simple (I did) or past continuous (I was doing).

1	We can go out now. It isn't raining (it / not / rain) any more.
2	Katherine was waiting (wait) for me when I arrived (I / arrive).

- (it / rain) hard.

- 8 Why
- direction.

...... (we / not / want) to disturb her, so

- (we / not / stay) very long.
 - (I / joke).

Additional exercises

Present and past

3

Units 1-14, Appendix 2

2 Which is correct?

- 1 Everything is going well. We <u>didn't have / haven't had</u> any problems so far. (<u>haven't had</u> is correct)
- 2 Lisa didn't go / hasn't gone to work yesterday. She wasn't feeling well.
- 3 Look! That man over there wears / is wearing the same sweater as you.
- 4 I went / have been to New Zealand last year.
- 5 I didn't hear / haven't heard from Jess recently. I hope she's OK.
- 6 I wonder why James is / is being so nice to me today. He isn't usually like that.
- 7 Jane had a book open in front of her, but she didn't read / wasn't reading it.
- 8 I wasn't very busy. I didn't have / wasn't having much to do.
- 9 It begins / It's beginning to get dark. Shall I turn on the light?
- 10 After leaving school, Mark worked / has worked in a hotel for a while.
- 11 When Sue heard the news, she <u>wasn't / hasn't been</u> very pleased.
- 12 This is a nice hotel, isn't it? Is this the first time you stay / you've stayed here?
- 13 I need a new job. I'm doing / I've been doing the same job for too long.
- 14 'Anna has gone out.' 'Oh, has she? What time did she go / has she gone?'
- 15 'You look tired.' 'Yes, <u>I've played / I've been playing</u> basketball.'
- **16** Where <u>are you coming / do you come</u> from? Are you American?
- 17 I'd like to see Tina again. It's a long time since I saw her / that I didn't see her.
- 18 Robert and Maria have been married since 20 years / for 20 years.

Complete each question using a suitable verb.

- A: I'm looking for Paul. <u>Have you seen</u> him?
 B: Yes, he was here a moment ago.
- 2 A: Why <u>did you go</u> to bed so early last night? B: I was feeling very tired.
- 3 A: Where ? B: Just to the shop at the end of the street. I'll only be ten minutes.
- 4 A: TV every day?
 - B: No, only if there's something special on.
- 6 A: How was your parents' holiday?a nice time?B: Yes, they really enjoyed it.

7 A: ______ Sarah recently?B: Yes, we had lunch together a few days ago.

- 8 A: Can you describe the woman you saw? What
 - B: A red sweater and black jeans.
- 9 A: I'm sorry to keep you waiting. long?B: No, only about ten minutes.
- 10 A: How long to get from here to the airport?B: Usually about 45 minutes. It depends on the traffic.

11 A: this song before?

- B: No, this is the first time. I like it.
- A: to the United States?B: No, never, but I went to Canada a few years ago.

?

Additional exercises

Use your own ideas to complete B's sentences.	
1 A: What's Chicago like? Is it a good place to visit?	
B: l've no idea. <u>I've never been</u>	
2 A: How well do you know Ben?	
в: Very well. We	since we were children.
3 A: Did you enjoy your holiday?	
в: Yes, it was really good. It's the best holiday	
4 A: Is David still here?	
в: No, I'm afraid he isn't.	about ten minutes ago.
5 A: I like your suit. I haven't seen it before.	
в: It's new. It's the first time	
6 A: How did you cut your knee?	
в: I slipped and fell when	tennis.
7 A: Do you ever go swimming?	
в: Not these days. I haven't	a long time.
8 A: How often do you go to the cinema?	
в: Very rarely. It's nearly a year	to the cinema.
9 A: I bought some new shoes. Do you like them?	
B: Yes, they're very nice. Where	them?

Present and past

Units 1–17, 110, Appendix 2

5 Put the verb into the correct form: past simple (I did), past continuous (I was doing), past perfect (I had done) or past perfect continuous (I had been doing).



Yesterday afternoon Sarah went (go) to the station to meet Paul. When she (get) there, Paul (alread)

...... (already / wait)



When I got home, Ben	(lie) on the sofa. The TV w	vas on,
	(not / watch) it. He	
asleep and	(snore) loudly. I	(turn) the
TV off and just then he	(wake) up.	