

# Units 3 & 4

## Present perfect simple and continuous, past simple

We form the present perfect with *have* + past participle.

We use the present perfect simple to talk about single completed actions and to emphasise the result of the action.

*Sea levels have risen between 10 and 25cm.*

*People have dumped huge amounts of waste into the oceans.*

We form the present perfect continuous with *have* + *been* + present participle.

We use the present perfect continuous to describe an action that started in the past and continues now, and to emphasise how long it has happened.

*Sea levels have been rising for years.*

*People have been dumping waste into the oceans for centuries.*

We usually use the present perfect simple with state verbs.

*She's always been loving the sea. She's always loved the sea.*

The present perfect simple and present perfect continuous can often be used in the same way, with little difference in meaning.

*I've worked here since 2008.*

*I've been working here since 2008.*

We often use these time phrases with the present perfect simple and continuous: *already, never, yet, for* and *since*.

We use the past simple to talk about finished actions in the past and when we specify the time of an action.

*The tsunami occurred in 1899.*

We often use these time phrases with the past simple: *ago, in* + year, *last* (year/week), *yesterday*.

We can use *for* and *never* with the past simple to refer to completed periods of time.

## Adjective order

We use adjectives in this order:

**opinion   size   age   colour   origin   other adjectives**

*An enormous blue whale. (size, colour)*

*An interesting Scandinavian legend. (opinion, origin)*

*An old rubber boot. (age, other adjective)*

## Modals of speculation (present and past)

We use *could, may, might, must* and *can't* to speculate about events or situations.

We use *must* when we are certain something is true.

*He must be a magician. (= I am certain he is.)*

We use *may, might* and *could* when something is possible.

*He may be cheating. (= It's possible.)*

We use *can't* when we are certain something isn't true.

*He can't have faked that trick. (I am certain he didn't fake it.)*

In the present, we use modal verb + infinitive.

*He can't know that information.*

In the past we use modal verb + *have* + past participle.

*He might have guessed the number.*

## Impersonal passive

The impersonal passive is formed with *it* + the passive voice. It is used with reporting verbs such as *say, claim, rumour, know, think* and *believe* to report a general opinion.

*It is said that you if you touch the statue, you will have good luck.*

*It is thought that the fountain has magical powers.*

We use the impersonal passive to report a general claim or belief, without reference to a particular person or agent.

*It is believed that drinking the water will cure illness.*

*It is rumoured that the statue cries tears or blood.*

The impersonal passive is often used in written and academic English.

## Past perfect simple and continuous, past simple

We form the past perfect with *had* + past participle.

*She had beard footsteps.*

We use the past perfect when we are talking about the past and want to talk about an earlier time in the past.

*He came to the inn because he had lost his way.*

We form the past perfect continuous with *had* + *been* + present participle.

*She had been waiting for guests.*

We use the past perfect continuous when we are talking about the past and want to talk about actions that were in progress at an earlier time in the past.

*He had been looking for a place to stay when he saw the inn.*

We use the past simple to talk about finished actions in the past.

*He knocked at the door and asked for a room.*

# Units 3 & 4 Exercises

## Present perfect simple and continuous, past simple

- 1 Complete one sentence in each pair with the present perfect and one with the present perfect continuous.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ (*sail*) on a boat three times and each time I got sea sick.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ (*sail*) for two years now.
  - Environmental organisations \_\_\_\_\_ (*try*) to protect whales without much success.  
Environmental organisations \_\_\_\_\_ (*try*) to protect whales for years.
  - Floods \_\_\_\_\_ (*cause*) chaos for several weeks.  
Floods \_\_\_\_\_ (*cause*) serious damage to the town.
  - The fishing industry \_\_\_\_\_ (*decline*) for years in our area.  
The fishing industry \_\_\_\_\_ (*decline*) because of overfishing.
  - I \_\_\_\_\_ (*collect*) lots of shells on the beach.  
I \_\_\_\_\_ (*collect*) shells since I was a small child.

## Adjective order

- 2 Correct the sentences.
- We travelled on an old wooden beautiful ship.
  - We discovered an amazing uninhabited tiny island.
  - We lay down on the golden sandy wide beach.
  - We looked at the cloudless blue lovely sky.
  - We thought of our North European depressing grey home.

## Modals of speculation (present and past)

- 3 Complete the text with the modals in the box.

could have warned    must have    might have heard  
might have written    can't use    could be    must do  
might have hidden

You perhaps (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of Uri Geller. Some people think he (2) \_\_\_\_\_ psychic powers. Others think he (3) \_\_\_\_\_ his mind to control objects: he (4) \_\_\_\_\_ tricks. There (5) \_\_\_\_\_ explanations for most of his performances. For example, when he bends a spoon, he (6) \_\_\_\_\_ it before. When a card disappears, he (7) \_\_\_\_\_ it in his sleeve. Or when he guesses the number of a car belonging to a member of the audience, he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the number down in the car park.

- 4 Rewrite the dialogues using modals, so that the meaning doesn't change.

- A: I'm sure I've lost my watch, it's gone.  
I \_\_\_\_\_  
B: Perhaps you just left it at home.  
You \_\_\_\_\_
- A: This definitely isn't the right address.  
It \_\_\_\_\_  
B: Perhaps you wrote down the wrong number.  
You \_\_\_\_\_
- A: My glasses are here somewhere, I'm sure.  
My \_\_\_\_\_  
B: Well, I'm sure they haven't just disappeared.  
They \_\_\_\_\_

## Impersonal passive

- 5 Report the sentences using the verb in brackets. Use *It* + passive.

- The hundreds of stone circles in Senegal and Gambia are from around 750 AD. (*estimate*) \_\_\_\_\_
- The circles are built round the burial mounds of kings and chiefs. (*believe*) \_\_\_\_\_
- The heavy stones were transported on rollers. (*think*) \_\_\_\_\_
- A small stone near a large stone means that somebody was buried with their child. (*claim*) \_\_\_\_\_
- V-shaped stones represent two relatives who died on the same day. (*say*) \_\_\_\_\_
- Small stones left on the large stones in the circles shine at night. (*report*) \_\_\_\_\_

## Past perfect simple and continuous, past simple

- 6 Complete the text with the correct tense.

Police (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (*find*) the mystery man on an English beach. He (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (*try*) to kill himself and was completely wet. He (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (*not speak*) and he (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (*cut*) out all the labels in his clothes. The newspapers (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (*call*) him the piano man because he (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (*draw*) pictures of a piano. But four months later the man (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (*speak*): he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (*lie*). The man (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (*work*) with mental health patients in a former job and he (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (*copy*) their behaviour for four months.

- 7 Write B's questions. Use the past perfect simple or continuous.

- A: I was completely exhausted.    B: what / you / do?
- A: We finally found the dog.    B: where / it / go?
- A: I felt very dizzy.    B: you / take / your tablets?
- A: He was sick three times.    B: what / he / eat?
- A: Our phone bill was enormous.    B: who / you / phone?
- A: He was covered in sweat.    B: he / run?