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books

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**GRAMMAR
AND
VOCABULARY**
for
**CAMBRIDGE ADVANCED
AND PROFICIENCY**

FULLY UPDATED FOR THE REVISED CPE



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Problem tenses

Entry test

1 Put the verbs in brackets into a suitable form.

EXAMPLE: This (be) the first time I've had to work all through the night.

This is the first time I've had to work all through the night.

- a Most of us have been salesmen since we (leave) university.

- b I (stay) with friends for the last few weeks while I try to find a flat.

- c That's the first time I (ever get) really angry with him.

- d We'll make the final decision when we (all finish) reading the report.

- e I've yet (see) a better player than Michael Owen in this competition.

SCORE _____

FOR PRESENT PERFECT, SEE SECTION 1.

2 Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase.

EXAMPLE: As soon as he saw *what had* happened, he switched off the electricity.

- a When I started working for this company, I an architect for six years.
- b She'd studying marine biology but she finally decided on geography.
- c They on the road for a mere five minutes when they had a puncture.
- d I don't recall in such a situation before.
- e My intention is finished my studies by June.

SCORE _____

FOR FUTURE PERFECT, PAST PERFECT AND OTHER PERFECT FORMS, SEE SECTION 2.

3 Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase.

EXAMPLE: I *have been* writing this composition all evening.

- a What doing with yourself over the last couple of days?
- b I to fix the engine all morning, but finally had to admit defeat.
- c Next summer, I living here for ten years.
- d He claimed to meaning to tell me about it but somehow forgot.
- e I was asking her if she'd like to come to the races on Saturday.

SCORE _____

FOR CONTINUOUS TENSES, SEE SECTION 3.

4 Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase.

EXAMPLE: Look out! We're *going* to hit the car in front!

- a At this rate, we're exhausted by the time we finish.
- b The minute the train standstill, get on and try to find a seat.
- c By next December, he working there for eighteen months.
- d They claim to be on of achieving everything they set out to do.
- e We were just about the house when Sue called.

SCORE _____

FOR FUTURE FORMS, SEE SECTION 4.

TOTAL SCORE _____

THE BASICS

1 USES OF PERFECT TENSES

Present Perfect

We use Present Perfect to talk about things that took place:

- during a period that includes past and present:
They've been waiting here for an hour.
- in the past, but we're not saying exactly when:
Don't tell me he's bought another new car!
- in the past with an effect or result in the present:
I'm afraid I've forgotten my key. Can you let me in?
- meaning 'a short time ago', especially with *just* (American English uses Past Simple here):
She's just gone out.

Past Perfect

We use Past Perfect to talk about things that took place:

- before something else in the past (see Section 2.1):
I took the decision after I had spoken to John.
- during a period before an event in the past:
All day I'd been feeling nervous but the feeling vanished as soon as I saw her.

Future Perfect

We use Future Perfect to talk about:

- something that will be finished before a specified time in the future (see Section 2.2):
I'll have signed nearly a hundred letters by tonight.

For, since, already, yet, still, often, etc.

We often use Perfect tenses with these time words.

- Note important variations in their position:
We still haven't heard from Olga. We've still not heard from her. I haven't heard a convincing explanation of her absence yet. She's phoned already. She's already phoned.

2 USES OF CONTINUOUS TENSES

We use Continuous tenses to talk about activities:

- that are temporary and continuing over a period. Continuous tenses show that we either view the event as incomplete, or that we don't know or don't need to say when it started or finished:
We're studying Shakespeare at school at the moment. (= temporary activity during these weeks)
It was raining when we left the building. (= we don't

know or aren't interested in when the rain started or when it will finish)

- that are in the process of changing:
William's piano playing was improving every day.
I think I'm getting more forgetful as I grow older.
- that describe a short action, e.g. *hit, knock, blink*, the action is repeated rather than continuous:
I've been ringing him all morning but he never seems to be in.
- We often use Past Continuous and Past Perfect Continuous to set the background to narrative events. Because it may not be clear when the activity begins or ends, they give the impression you are arriving in the middle of a scene:
Jo had been working all morning and was now spending a happy half hour doing nothing more taxing than staring into space. She was looking forward to her holiday in Scotland in a few days' time.

3 EXPRESSING THE FUTURE

English does not have one future tense. Instead, we use other tenses and modal verbs to refer to the future (see Section 4):

- This time next week we'll be sitting our exams.* (= we'll be in the middle of them)
When you arrive, you are to go straight to the registration desk.

watch out!

We don't use Present Perfect when an exact past time is mentioned and there is no connection with the present:

- ✗ *We've been to London in 1997.*
✓ *We went to London in 1997.*
- But we can use Present Perfect if the period mentioned includes the past and present:
We've been here since half past six.
I haven't done much work today.
It's been raining for ages.
- We use Past Perfect for something that happened before something else. We can only use it with another Past tense:
I went to see him because his wife had asked me to.
- We omit *will* in time clauses (see Sections 1.4 and 4.2):
✗ *I'll phone you as soon as we will have arrived.*
✓ *I'll phone you as soon as we have arrived.*

SECTION I

Present Perfect

Present Perfect often combines with other tenses in the same sentence.

1 USES WITH OTHER PRESENT TENSES

We use Present Perfect with other Present tenses:

- with report/comment verbs or phrases (*guess, imagine, suppose, etc.*):
I reckon Gloria's been held up in traffic. Do you suppose they've forgotten they're meant to be here?
- with the phrase *This is / It's / That's the first / second / only, etc. time ...*:
This is the first time he's been late. It's the only time I've ever really got angry with him.
- when an event is unusual or unique in your life (often with a superlative and *ever* or *never*):
I've never met anybody who is so absent-minded. (We use a Past tense to refer to somebody who is dead: *Princess Diana was the most extraordinary person I've ever read about.*)
- when commenting on the present results of something in the past (usually with *appear, seem, sound, etc.*):
He sounds as if he has run all the way here. It seems they've already decided without consulting us.

2 USES WITH PAST TENSES

We use Present Perfect with Past tenses:

- to describe states or events that have continued since a time in the past (with *since, ever since, etc.*):
He's been a bit more careful since he had that warning. Ever since I first heard it I've been trying to find a recording of that song.
- to describe long-term or repeated feelings and thoughts about past events:
I've often wondered why he decided to become a teacher. I've always felt we did the wrong thing when we took her on as an assistant.

3 USE WITH ANOTHER PRESENT PERFECT

We use Present Perfect with another Present Perfect:

- to describe two states that have existed since a time in the past:
Since I've known him, he's always worn the same sweater.

4 USE WITH FUTURE FORMS

In time clauses (after *when, as soon as, until, before, etc.*) we don't use *will*, and so the Future Perfect *will have done* is not possible. In these cases we use Present Perfect to refer to the future:

We'll continue the meeting when he's recovered his composure.

5 USE WITH SINCE AND YET

Note the position and emphatic uses of *since* and *yet*:

There was no news this morning but we've since learned that she's in Rome.

I haven't met anyone yet who can run as fast as him. or: I've yet to meet anyone who ...

6 COMMON PHRASES

They've made it! (= They've succeeded) *I've had enough.* (= I'm fed up. I don't want to do any more) *You've had it!* (= You're in trouble) *That's torn it!* (= You, we, etc. have done something that someone else will complain strongly about) *Now you've done it!* (= You've done something seriously wrong) *She's arrived.* (= She's achieved fame, success, acceptance, etc. at last) *He's lost it.* (= He's lost his patience or self-control) *You've got me there!* (= Good point: I've no idea what the solution is)



? check

Correct these sentences.

- It's the third time he missed a meeting.
- As soon as he will finish, he's going home.
- This is the best lasagne I ever have.
- Since we've known each other, he always shows impeccable manners.
- Since I've met her, I've never seen her lose her temper.

Practice

1 Tick (✓) the sentences that are correct. Correct those that are not.

- 1 Do you think Vicky's always known the truth about us?
- 2 That's been the second time you've forgotten to post something for me.
- 3 I haven't seen Peter since he begins seeing his new girlfriend.
- 4 Ever since we met, you never asked me what I prefer to do.
- 5 In all my life, I never spoke to someone who is quite so stupid.
- 6 I don't think Paul and Carol have seen much of each other of late.
- 7 This is the only occasion that I've seen him wearing a tie.
- 8 Since he's lived here, he was usually extremely friendly.
- 9 They'll join us after they'll get a bite to eat.
- 10 He says he hasn't yet come to a final decision.



2 Fill each of the gaps in this passage with one suitable word.

I've often (1) that Stefan's success as a teacher is due to his eccentricity as much as his knowledge of the subject. From the first time he ever (2) into a classroom, students have always loved him. They've probably (3) met anybody who displays such an extraordinary mixture of enthusiasm and great personal warmth. It (4) also probably the first time they've (5) somebody who always wears a leather jacket and a scarf even at the height of summer.

3 Fill each of the gaps in this passage with one suitable word.

'When did you really begin to feel at home here?' Paul asked.
 'Oh, you've (1) me there!' John replied. 'Let's just say you won't feel you truly belong until you've (2) out with your colleagues and then made it up several times. Over the summer I've (3) it with all of them countless times, often over quite trivial things. I've lost (4) of the times I've said to myself – That's it! I've had (5)! But I come back the next day, time after time. I've often (6) why I do. As far as the boss goes, just wait until you make a major mistake. Your colleagues will go "Oooh, now you've (7) it!" or "Um, that's (8) it!", and the boss comes in and just smiles at you. Then you'll know you've (9) it. Then you'll definitely have (10)

4 Fill each of the blanks with a suitable word or phrase.

Example: I'm not going to go out again until *the storm has* blown over.

- 1 I'll phone him just as soon as typing all these letters.
- 2 I looked for that book everywhere **but I'm afraid** across it yet.
- 3 This isn't the first time he away from home.
- 4 I spoke to Sylvia last night: she sounds had a hard time recently.
- 5 I went to the new pizzeria last night: it does the eaten.
- 6 I've never understood what football so popular.
- 7 Since he got home from the camp, he but sleep.
- 8 I've yet over the shock of seeing her there.

5 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.

CPE

- 1 It's almost a year since I stopped smoking.
up
I ago.
- 2 Nobody has had sight of the boat for two days.
last
The boat two days ago.
- 3 Immediately we finish this, we'll join you.
minute
We'll finished this.
- 4 Bergkamp's goal is the most extraordinary I've ever seen.
yet
I've an extraordinary goal as Bergkamp's.