

# I. Tense Review

## 1. Simple and continuous

Where possible, change the verb forms in these sentences from simple to continuous or continuous to simple. What is the change in meaning? Why is the change sometimes not possible?

- 1 Everyone's very nice to me. I don't know why.
- 2 I'll see Luis later.
- 3 I've cut my finger. It's really hurting.
- 4 David always gives Pam expensive presents.
- 5 What do you do?
- 6 He fired a gun.
- 7 She was dying.
- 8 I've been checking my emails.
- 9 The train leaves in five minutes.
- 10 That room is used as a study.

(from *New Headway Advanced: Student's Book*, p. 24)

## 2. Perfect and non-perfect

Compare the use of tenses in these pairs of sentences. What are the differences in meaning?

- 1 They've been married for thirty years.  
They were married for thirty years.
- 2 I come from Scotland.  
I've come from Scotland.
- 3 When I've talked to him, I'll tell you.  
When I talk to him, I'll tell him.
- 4 The arrangements will be finalized on Friday.  
The arrangements will have been finalized by Friday.
- 5 Did you ever meet my grandfather?  
Have you ever met my grandfather?
- 6 I wish I knew the way.  
I wish I'd known the way.

## Tense review

►► Grammar Reference 2.5–10 Student's Book p148

### 1 General review

Complete the anecdotes with an appropriate tense of the verbs in brackets.

One evening in the winter of 1902, the Irish writer, **George Bernard Shaw**, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to the beautiful American dancer, Isadora Duncan. Duncan, who (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (know) for her strong belief in eugenics, suggested that she and Shaw (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a child together. 'Think of it!' she said, 'With your brains and my body, what a wonder it (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (be).' Shaw (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (think) for a moment and replied, 'Yes, but what if it (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) my body and your brains?'



The famous film director, **Alfred Hitchcock**, telephoned the prolific Belgian crime novelist, Georges Simenon. At the time, Simenon (7) \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ (complete) nearly 400 novels. Hitchcock knew that he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (write) his books at incredible speed, sometimes in as little as ten days. Simenon's wife took the call. 'I'm sorry,' she said, 'but Georges (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (write) and I can't disturb him.' 'That's OK,' replied Hitchcock. 'Let him finish his book. I (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (hang on).'

An interesting thing happened to me when I was touring the USA recently. I (11) \_\_\_\_\_ just \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a spy novel, where the hero (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (hide) a letter in a particular statue in Washington. Since I was in that city at the time, on a whim I decided to see if the statue really contained the small niche the author (13) \_\_\_\_\_ (describe). To my great surprise it did – and a letter was inside. After a moment's hesitation I pulled out the letter and opened it. As I (14) \_\_\_\_\_ (read) it, I burst out laughing. An unidentified reader (15) \_\_\_\_\_ (write), 'Good book, wasn't it?'

### 2 Correcting mistakes

Find and correct the seven mistakes in tense usage. There are five in the first paragraph and two in the second.

- 1 Harry came into the room and sat down, exhausted. He had a terrible day at the office and had only just arrived home. Mary had come round later and she almost certainly wanted to go out. Harry wasn't sure he could face that. At least he had his holiday to look forward to. By this time next week he'd sit on a sun-drenched beach and sip cocktails ...
- 2 John expected to get a decent rise because he worked at the publishing company for many years. He knew he sold more books every year than any of his fellow sales representatives. He'd been selling books all his life and had known exactly what approach to adopt with every bookshop he visited.

(from *New Headway Advanced: Workbook*, p. 11)