



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

T8

**Adapted and modified by  
Kulwant Singh Sandhu**

<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

## Contents

Past time 2.  
6 Tests.

## Past Time 2

### A. Underline the correct word or phrase.

1. Rick should know about the meeting because I told / have told him about it yesterday.
2. Did you meet / Have you met last July while you were both backpacking around Europe?
3. I'm resigning because the pressure at work has become / became too much for me.
4. A month ago, I got / have got a letter from Neil, but I haven't replied.
5. Julie was / has been anxious to speak to you since she heard about your accident.
6. I had / have had no idea you were such a good chess player.
7. If you finished / have finished, put your hand up and I'll collect your exam paper.
8. There were / have been a number of different reasons for our divorce.
9. It was my birthday last week and my grandad gave / has given me a new laptop.
10. I don't know who's responsible because I didn't work / haven't worked here long.
11. My brother and I were never allowed / have never been allowed to chew gum when we were young.
12. My parents sent / have sent me to a private school until I was 12.

**B. Write the verb in brackets in the correct form, past simple or past continuous, in each gap. You may have to use the passive form.**

1. When the explosion happened, hundreds of people .....  
(pass) through the airport.
2. When I heard the phone ring, I ..... (stop) to answer it.
3. Amy ..... (read), so she didn't see me walking past.
4. I ..... (have) piano lessons every week from the age of six onwards.
5. We decided to leave the beach because it ..... (get) dark and we wanted to get home while there was still some light.
6. .... Jessica already ..... (think) of leaving university before she failed her first year exams?
7. Since the hotel had a pool, ..... you .....  
(swim) every day?
8. The Industrial Revolution ..... (attract) many people from the country to the city.
9. The Hubble Space Telescope ..... (put) into orbit around the Earth in 1990.
10. Sorry I couldn't come on Friday, but I ..... (work) on my project.
11. By the time we ..... (arrive), the party was almost over.
12. The national park ..... (create) to protect local wildlife.

C. Write a verb from the box in the correct form in each gap.

• appear • **check** • complete • **disappear** • get • **go** • kidnap  
• **look** • make • **mean** • open • press • **race** • rain • **remind**  
• see • **start** • take • **travel** • wait • **wear** • work

## High-tech trouble

It all.....as I made my way home from work. We .....on a top secret computer program, and everyone..... pretty nervous about finishing on time, so it was good to get away from the office. It ..... and it seemed like everyone ..... home at the same time, anxious to avoid getting wet. I ..... down into the underground station and ..... for the train when I ..... her at the end of the platform. She..... a red leather jacket that..... me of something I'd seen in a film, although I couldn't remember when. As I watched, she..... her handbag and ..... out what looked like a hand-held computer. She ..... something on the screen, then ..... in my direction. Suddenly, my mobile phone ..... a sound that ..... I had a text message. Frowning, I..... a key and the message ..... 'We ..... your daughter. We know you ..... the program. Follow the woman in red.' I looked up just as she ..... around the corner. I ..... after her.

**D. One verb in each sentence is in the wrong tense. Underline the incorrect word or phrase and write it in the correct tense.**

1. I've been having a lot of problems with my computer recently and so I got a technician to come and have a look at it, but she has told me that it was because I wasn't using it properly.

2. It was a few days since I heard from Roger, but he left Russia last Monday and he was planning to arrive in China yesterday, so I called his mum to see if she had heard anything.

3. Patricia and I were having a really good discussion when Jason suddenly appeared and decided that he wanted to join in, even though he has known absolutely nothing about what we were talking about.

4. I had never been visiting a working prison before, so when the opportunity came up I was really eager to have a look around and I certainly wasn't disappointed, although we weren't actually allowed to see the area where the prisoners live.

5. Charlie didn't know what John had said to Sarah, but he could see immediately that she had been crying and he was putting his arm around her to comfort her, which made her feel a little better.

6. Although there was no reason to doubt what Alex said, I was ringing Rick to check and he told me that Alex had been right and the concert really had been cancelled because the lead singer had come down with flu.

7. The year before, I had given Lisa a CD for her birthday, but this particular year I wanted to surprise her, so I went into town and I was looking round the shops when suddenly I had seen an old-fashioned hat, and it was her size, so I immediately bought it.

8. Olivia was cycling to school, as she usually did on those days when her father was working and wasn't able to drive her, when she was passing an old woman, who was waiting for the lights to change so that she could cross the road.

**E. Write the verb in brackets in the correct form, past continuous or present perfect continuous, in each gap.**

1. 'Why are you out of breath?'

'Because I..... for the last hour.' (exercise)

2. 'Your light was on when I walked past last night.'

'Yes, I.....online to my cousin in Australia.' (chat)

3. 'You've really improved on the flute.'

'Well, I hope so because I..... a lot lately.' (practise)

4. 'You're not jealous of my other friends, are you?'

'No, but you..... quite a lot of them recently.' (see)

5. 'I didn't wake you up, did I?'

'No, I.....' (sleep)

6 'Did you quit your job in the end?'

'I.....of doing so for a long time, but then I decided not to.' (think)

7 'Why is your street such a mess?'

'Oh, the council..... up the roads, but they should finish this weekend.' (dig)

**F. Choose the correct answer.**

1 How long..... before Banta finally turned up?

A: have you been waiting

C: you waited

B: are you waiting

D: had you been waiting

2. You.....be so good at football, did you?

A: never used to

C: are used to

B: got used to

D: wouldn't

3. Could you tell me, sir, what you..... in the park at three in the morning?

A: have done

C: were doing

B: have been doing

D: had done

4. I was angry when you saw me because I ..... with my sister.

A: have been arguing

C: had been arguing

B: argued

D: would argue

5. The Black Pirate.....over a million copies already this year.

A: had sold

C: had been selling

B: has sold

D: was selling

6. Don't throw the paper away because I.....it yet.

A: haven't read

C: haven't been reading

B: hadn't read

D: hadn't been reading

7. By the time we arrived, the film.....

A: has already started

C: already started.

B: would already start

D: had already started

8. We had to walk home in the end because Jimmy ..... his car keys.

A: has been losing

C: was losing

B: had lost

D: had been losing



9. It took Edward a long time to..... living in Canada.

A: be used to

C: get used to

B: used to

D: be used

10. I'd love to have lived in the old days, when people .....to market by horse and carriage.

A: have been travelling

C: got used to travelling

B: would travel

D: had been travelling

11. I much preferred it when we..... to Wales every summer on holiday.

A: used to go

C: had gone

B: were used to going

D: have been going

12. Your teacher called me today and said that you ..... in the playground again.

A: had been fighting

C: have fought

B: used to fight

D: would fight

## Answer

### A. Underline the correct word or phrase.

1. Rick should know about the meeting because I told him about it yesterday.
2. Did you meet last July while you were both backpacking around Europe?
3. I'm resigning because the pressure at work has become too much for me.
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12. My parents sent me to a private school until I was 12.

**B. Write the verb in brackets in the correct form, past simple or past continuous, in each gap. You may have to use the passive form.**

1. When the explosion happened, hundreds of people **were passing** through the airport.
2. When I heard the phone ring, I **stopped** to answer it.
3. Amy **was reading**, so she didn't see me walking past.
4. I **had** piano lessons every week from the age of six onwards.
5. We decided to leave the beach because it **was getting** dark and we wanted to get home while there was still some light.
6. **Was** Jessica already **thinking** of leaving university before she failed her first year exams?
7. Since the hotel had a pool, **did** you **swim** every day?
8. The Industrial Revolution **attracted** many people from the country to the city.
9. The Hubble Space Telescope **was put** into orbit around the Earth in 1990.
10. Sorry I couldn't come on Friday, but I **was working** on my project.
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### High-tech trouble

It all **started** as I made my way home from work. We **were working / had been working** on a top secret computer program, and everyone **was getting** pretty nervous about finishing on time, so it was good to get away from the office. It **was raining** and it seemed like everyone **was travelling** home at the same time, anxious to avoid getting wet. I **went** down into the underground station and **was waiting** for the train when I **saw** her at the end of the platform. She **was wearing** a red leather jacket that **reminded** me of something I'd seen in a film, although I couldn't remember when. As I watched, she **opened** her handbag and **took** out what looked like a hand-held computer. She **checked** something on the screen, then **looked** in my direction. Suddenly, my mobile phone **made** a sound that **meant** I had a text message. Frowning, I **pressed** a key and the message **appeared**. 'We **have kidnapped** your daughter. We know you **have completed** the program. Follow the woman in red.' I looked up just as she **was disappearing / disappeared** around the corner. I **raced** after her.

**D. One verb in each sentence is in the wrong tense. Underline the incorrect word or phrase and write it in the correct tense.**

1. I've been having a lot of problems with my computer recently and so I got a technician to come and have a look at it, but she **told** me that it was because I wasn't using it properly.

2. It **has been** a few days since I heard from Roger, but he left Russia last Monday and he was planning to arrive in China yesterday, so I called his mum to see if she had heard anything.

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'Because I **have been exercising** for the last hour.'

2. 'Your light was on when I walked past last night.'

'Yes, I **was chatting** online to my cousin in Australia.'

3. 'You've really improved on the flute.'

'Well, I hope so because I **have been practising** a lot lately.'

4. 'You're not jealous of my other friends, are you?'

'No, but you **have been seeing** quite a lot of them recently.'

5. 'I didn't wake you up, did I?'

'No, I **wasn't sleeping**.'

6. 'Did you quit your job in the end?'

'I **was thinking** of doing so for a long time, but then I decided not to.'

7 'Why is your street such a mess?'

'Oh, the council **has been digging** up the roads, but they should finish this weekend.'

**F. Choose the correct answer.**

- 1 How long **had you been waiting** before Banta finally turned up?
2. You **never used to** be so good at football, did you?
3. Could you tell me, sir, what you **were doing** in the park at three in the morning?
4. I was angry when you saw me because I **had been arguing** with my sister.
5. The Black Pirate **has sold** over a million copies already this year.
6. Don't throw the paper away because I **haven't read** it yet.
7. By the time we arrived, the film **had already started**.
8. We had to walk home in the end because Jimmy **had lost** his car keys.
9. It took Edward a long time to **get used to** living in Canada.
10. I'd love to have lived in the old days, when people **would travel** to market by horse and carriage.
11. I much preferred it when we **used to go** to Wales every summer on holiday.
12. Your teacher called me today and said that you **had been fighting** in the playground again.