

## 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.

**I am doing**

past                      now                      future

- ☐ 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.

*Simple present (I do)*

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

**I do**

past                      now                      future

- ☐ Water **boils** at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ☐ Excuse me, **do** you **speak** English?
- ☐ It **doesn't rain** very much in the summer.
- ☐ What **do** you usually **do** on 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):

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

See Unit 2 for more information.

## B

**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.

- ☐ Eric 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 underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Water boils at 212 degrees Fahrenheit. OK
- 2 How often are you going to the cinema? How often do you go
- 3 Ben tries to find a job, but he hasn't had any luck yet. .....
- 4 Melissa is calling her mother every day. .....
- 5 The moon goes around the earth in about 27 days. .....
- 6 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about? .....
- 7 What do you do in your spare time? .....
- 8 Sarah is a vegetarian. She doesn't eat meat. .....
- 9 I must go now. It gets late. .....
- 10 "Come on! It's time to leave." "OK, I come." .....
- 11 Mike is never late. He's always starting work on time. .....
- 12 They don't get along well. They're always arguing. .....

## 3.2 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

- 1 a I usually get (I / usually / get) hungry in the afternoon.
- b I'm getting (I / get) hungry. Let's go and eat something.
- 2 a "..... (you / listen) to the radio?" "No, you can turn it off."
- b "..... (you / listen) to the radio a lot?" "No, not very often."
- 3 a The Nile River ..... (flow) into the Mediterranean.
- b The river ..... (flow) very fast today—much faster than usual.
- 4 a My apartment is a mess. .... (I / not / do) the housework very often.
- b What ..... (you / usually / do) on weekends?
- 5 a Rachel is in New York right now. .... (She / stay) at the Park Hotel.
- b ..... (She / always / stay) there when she's in New York.

## 3.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

- 1 Why are all these people here? What's happening (What / happen)?
- 2 Julia is good at languages. .... (She / speak) four languages very well.
- 3 Are you ready yet? ..... (Everybody / wait) for you.
- 4 I've never heard this word. How ..... (you / pronounce) it?
- 5 Kate ..... (not / work) this week. She's on vacation.
- 6 I think my English ..... (improve) slowly. It's better than it was.
- 7 Nicole ..... (live) in Dallas. She has never lived anywhere else.
- 8 Can we stop walking soon? ..... (I / start) to get tired.
- 9 Sam and Natalie 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 I ..... (I / learn) to drive. My driving test is next month. My father  
..... (teach) me.

## 3.4 Finish B's sentences. Use always -ing.

- 1 A: I lost my keys again.  
B: Not again! You're always losing your keys
- 2 A: The car broke down again.  
B: That car is useless. It .....
- 3 A: Look! You made the same mistake again.  
B: Oh no, not again! I .....
- 4 A: Oh, I left my phone at home again.  
B: Typical! .....



Present Continuous and Simple Present 2  
(I am doing and I do)

A

We use continuous forms (**I'm waiting**, **it's raining**, etc.) for actions and events that have started but haven't finished. Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in this way. We don't say "I am knowing" or "they are liking." We say "**I know**" and "they **like**."

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

like	want	need	prefer	
know	understand	recognize		
believe	suppose	remember	mean	
belong	fit	contain	consist	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.

B

**think**

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

- ☐ 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)

C

**see hear smell taste look feel**

We normally use the simple present (not the present continuous) with **see/hear/smell/taste**:

- ☐ **Do** you **see** that man over there? (*not* are you seeing)
- ☐ The room **smells** bad. Let's open a window.
- ☐ This soup **doesn't taste** very good.

You can use the simple present or the present continuous to say how somebody **looks** or **feels** now:

- ☐ You **look** well today. *or* You're **looking** well today.
- ☐ How **do** you **feel** now? *or* How **are** you **feeling** now?

but

- ☐ I usually **feel** tired in the morning. (*not* I'm usually feeling)

D

**am/is/are being**

You can say **he's being** ..., **you're being** ..., etc., to say how somebody is behaving *now*:

- ☐ I can't understand why he's **being** so selfish. He isn't usually like that.  
(**being** selfish = behaving selfishly now)
- ☐ "The path is icy. Don't slip." "Don't worry. I'm **being** very careful."

Compare:

- ☐ He never thinks about other people. He's very selfish.  
(= he is selfish generally, not only now)
- ☐ I don't like to take risks. I'm a very careful person.

We use **am/is/are being** to say how a person is *behaving* (= doing something they can control) now.

It is not usually possible in other situations:

- ☐ Sam **is** sick. (*not* is being sick)
- ☐ **Are** you tired? (*not* are you being tired)



# Exercises

Unit  
4

## 4.1 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or simple present.

- Are you hungry? Do you want (you / want) something to eat?
- Alan says he's 90 years old, but nobody ..... (believe) him.
- She told me her name, but ..... (I / not / remember) it now.
- Don't put the dictionary away. .... (I / use) it.
- Don't put the dictionary away. .... (I / need) it.
- Air ..... (consist) mainly of nitrogen and oxygen.
- Who is that man? What ..... (he / want)?
- Who is that man? Why ..... (he / look) at us?
- Who is that man? ..... (you / recognize) him?
- ..... (I / think) of selling my car. Would you be interested in buying it?
- I can't make up my mind. What ..... (you / think) I should do?
- Alex wasn't well earlier, but ..... (he / seem) OK now.

## 4.2 Use the words in parentheses to make sentences.

<p>①</p>  <p>(you / not / seem / very happy today) You <u>don't seem</u> very happy today.</p>	<p>②</p>  <p>Are you OK? You look worried. (I / think / about something) .....</p>
<p>③</p>  <p>(who / this umbrella / belong to?) ..... I have no idea.</p>	<p>④</p>  <p>(this / smell / good) .....</p>
<p>⑤</p>  <p>Excuse me. (anybody / sit / there?) ..... No, it's free.</p>	<p>⑥</p>  <p>(these gloves / not / fit / me) ..... They're too small.</p>

## 4.3 Are the underlined verbs OK? Correct them where necessary.

- Michelle is thinking of giving up her job. OK
- It's not true. I'm not believing it. I don't believe it
- I'm feeling hungry. Is there anything to eat? .....
- I've never eaten that fruit. What is it tasting like? .....
- I'm not sure what she does. I think she works in a store. ....
- Look over there. What are you seeing? .....
- You're very quiet. What are you thinking about? .....

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

- I can't understand why he's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
- You'll like Andrea when you meet her. She ..... very nice.
- Sarah ..... very nice to me right now. I wonder why.
- They ..... very happy. They just got married.
- You're normally very patient, so why ..... so unreasonable about waiting ten more minutes?
- Would you like something to eat? ..... hungry?



## Simple Past (I did)

## A Study this example:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **was** an Austrian musician and composer. He **lived** from 1756 to 1791. He **started** composing at the age of five and **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. He **was** only 35 years old when he **died**.

**lived/started/wrote/was/died** are all *simple past*.

W.A. Mozart



1756-1791

B Very often the simple past ends in **-ed** (*regular verbs*):

- ☐ I work in a travel agency now. I **worked** in a department store before.
- ☐ They **invited** us to their party, but we **decided** not to go.
- ☐ The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- ☐ Lauren **passed** her exam because she **studied** very hard.

For spelling (**stopped**, **studied**, etc.), see Appendix 6.

But many verbs are *irregular*. The simple past does *not* end in **-ed**. For example:

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| write → <b>wrote</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Mozart <b>wrote</b> more than 600 pieces of music. |
| see → <b>saw</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> We <b>saw</b> Alice in town a few days ago.        |
| go → <b>went</b>     | <input type="checkbox"/> I <b>went</b> to the movies three times last week. |
| shut → <b>shut</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> It was cold, so I <b>shut</b> the window.          |

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

C In questions and negative sentences we use **did/didn't** + infinitive (**enjoy/see/go**, etc.):

I	enjoyed		you	enjoy?		I		enjoy
she	saw	did	she	see?		she	didn't	see
they	went		they	go?		they		go

- ☐ I enjoyed the party a lot. **Did** you **enjoy** it?
- ☐ How many people **did** they **invite** to the wedding?
- ☐ I **didn't buy** anything because I **didn't have** any money.
- ☐ "**Did** you **go** out?" "No, I **didn't**."

Sometimes **do** is the main verb in the sentence (**did ... do / didn't do**). For example:

- ☐ What **did** you **do** on the weekend? (*not* What did you on the weekend?)
- ☐ I **didn't do** anything. (*not* I didn't anything)

D The past of **be** (**am/is/are**) is **was/were**:

I/he/she/it	<b>was/wasn't</b>	<b>was</b>	I/he/she/it?
we/you/they	<b>were/weren't</b>	<b>were</b>	we/you/they?

- ☐ I **was** annoyed because **they were** late.
- ☐ **Was the weather** good when **you were** on vacation?
- ☐ **They weren't** able to come because **they were** so busy.
- ☐ I **wasn't** hungry, so I didn't eat anything.
- ☐ Did you go out last night, or **were you** too tired?



# Exercises

Unit  
5

## 5.1 Read what Lauren says about a typical working day:



Lauren

I usually get up at 7:00 and have a big breakfast. I walk to work, which takes me about half an hour. I start work at 8:45. I never have lunch. I finish work at 5:00. I'm always tired when I get home. I usually cook dinner a little later. I don't usually go out. I go to bed at about 11:00, and I always sleep well.

Yesterday was a typical working day for Lauren. Write what she did or didn't do yesterday.

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 She <u>got up</u> at 7:00. | 7 _____ at 5:00.               |
| 2 She _____ a big breakfast. | 8 _____ tired when _____ home. |
| 3 She _____                  | 9 _____ dinner a little later. |
| 4 It _____ to get to work.   | 10 _____ out last night.       |
| 5 _____ at 8:45.             | 11 _____ at 11:00.             |
| 6 _____ lunch.               | 12 _____ well last night.      |

## 5.2 Complete the sentences using the following verbs in the correct form:

buy catch cost fall hurt sell spend teach throw ~~write~~

- Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
- "How did you learn to drive?" "My father \_\_\_\_\_ me."
- We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- Dave \_\_\_\_\_ down the stairs this morning and \_\_\_\_\_ his leg.
- Joe \_\_\_\_\_ the ball to Sue, who \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- Kate \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of money yesterday. She \_\_\_\_\_ a dress which \_\_\_\_\_ \$200.

## 5.3 You ask James about his trip in the U.S. Write your questions.

- YOU: Where did you go ?  
JAMES: To the U.S. We went on a trip from San Francisco to Denver.
- YOU: How \_\_\_\_\_ ? By car?  
JAMES: Yes, we rented a car in San Francisco.
- YOU: It's a long way to drive. How long \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
JAMES: Two weeks, but we stopped at a lot of places on the way.
- YOU: Where \_\_\_\_\_ ? In hotels?  
JAMES: Yes, small hotels or motels.
- YOU: \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
JAMES: It was very hot – sometimes too hot.
- YOU: \_\_\_\_\_ the Grand Canyon?  
JAMES: Of course. It was wonderful.

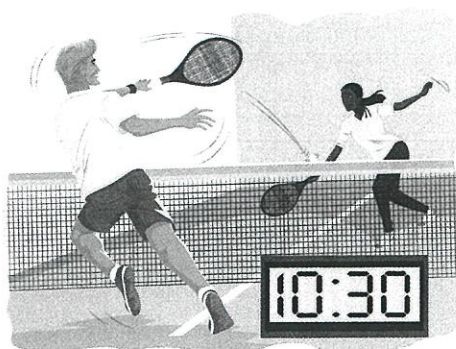
## 5.4 Complete the sentences. Put the verb into the correct form, affirmative or negative.

- It was warm, so I took off my coat. (take)
- The movie wasn't very good. I didn't enjoy it much. (enjoy)
- I knew Sarah was busy, so I \_\_\_\_\_ her. (disturb)
- We were very tired, so we \_\_\_\_\_ the party early. (leave)
- It was hard carrying the bags. They \_\_\_\_\_ really heavy. (be)
- The bed was very uncomfortable. I \_\_\_\_\_ well. (sleep)
- This watch wasn't expensive. It \_\_\_\_\_ much. (cost)
- The window was open, and a bird \_\_\_\_\_ into the room. (fly)
- I was in a hurry, so I \_\_\_\_\_ time to call you. (have)
- I didn't like the hotel. The room \_\_\_\_\_ very clean. (be)



## Past Continuous (I was doing)

A Study this example situation:



Yesterday Karen and Joe played tennis. They started at 10:00 and finished at 11:30.

So, at 10:30 they **were playing** tennis.

they **were playing** =

they were in the middle of playing, they had not finished

**was/were + -ing** is the *past continuous*:

he/she/it	<b>was</b>	playing doing
we/you/they	<b>were</b>	working, etc.

B I was doing something = I was in the middle of doing it at a certain time. The action or situation started before this time but had not finished:

**I started doing**

**I was doing**

**I finished doing**

past

past

now

- ☐ This time last year I **was living** in Hong Kong.
- ☐ What **were** you **doing** at 10:00 last night?
- ☐ I waved to Hannah, but she **wasn't looking**.

C Compare I **was doing** (*past continuous*) and I **did** (*simple past*):

**I was doing** (= in the middle of an action)

- ☐ We were **walking** home when we met Dan. (in the middle of walking home)
- ☐ Kate **was watching** TV when we arrived.

**I did** (= complete action)

- ☐ We **walked** home after the party last night. (= all the way, completely)
- ☐ Kate **watched** TV a lot when she was sick last year.

D You can say that something **happened** (*simple past*) in the middle of something else (*past continuous*):

- ☐ Matt **called** while we **were having** dinner.
- ☐ It **was raining** when I **got** up.
- ☐ I **saw** you in the park yesterday. You **were sitting** on the grass and **reading** a book.
- ☐ I **hurt** my back while I **was working** in the yard.

But we use the *simple past* to say that one thing happened *after* another:

- ☐ I **was walking** along the road when I **saw** Dan. So I **stopped**, and we **talked** for a while.

Compare:

- ☐ When Karen arrived, we **were having** dinner. (= we had already started before she arrived)
- ☐ When Karen arrived, we **had** dinner. (= Karen arrived, and then we had dinner)

E Some verbs (for example, **know** and **want**) are not normally used in *continuous* forms (**is + -ing**, **was + -ing**, etc.). See Unit 4A for a list of these verbs.

- ☐ We were good friends. We **knew** each other well. (*not* we were knowing)
- ☐ I was enjoying the party, but Chris **wanted** to go home. (*not* was wanting)



# Exercises

Unit  
6

6.1 Complete the sentences. Choose from:

was looking    ~~was wearing~~    wasn't listening    weren't looking  
was snowing    was working    were sitting    were you going

- 1 Today Hannah is wearing a skirt. Yesterday she was wearing pants.
- 2 "What did he say?" "I don't know. I ....."
- 3 We ..... in the back of the theater. We couldn't hear very well.
- 4 This time last year John ..... on a farm.
- 5 They didn't see me. They ..... in my direction.
- 6 The weather was bad. It was very cold, and it .....
- 7 I saw you in your car. Where ..... ?
- 8 I saw Kate a few minutes ago. She ..... for you.

6.2 Which goes with which?

- 1 When I got to the cafe,
- 2 We fell asleep
- 3 Amy learned Italian
- 4 Tom didn't come out with us
- 5 The car began to make a strange noise
- 6 The TV was on,
- 7 When I first met Jessica,

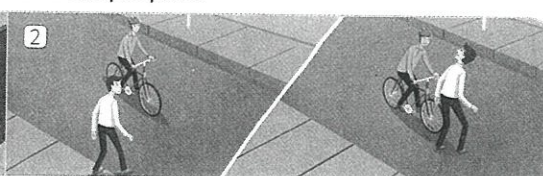
- a when she was living in Rome.
- b she was working in a clothing store.
- c when I was driving home.
- d but nobody was watching it.
- e while we were watching a movie.
- f ~~my friends were waiting for me.~~
- g because he wasn't feeling well.

- 1 f
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....
- 7 .....

6.3 Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or simple past.



1 I saw (see) Sue downtown yesterday,  
but she ..... (not/see) me.  
She ..... (look) the other way.



2 I ..... (ride) my bike home  
yesterday when a man ..... (step)  
out into the road in front of me.  
I ..... (go) pretty fast, but luckily  
I ..... (manage) to stop in time,  
and I ..... (not/hit) him.

6.4 Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or simple past.

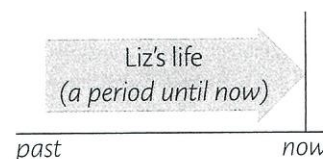
- 1 Jen was waiting (wait) for me when I arrived (arrive).
- 2 "What ..... (you/do) at this time yesterday?" "I was asleep."
- 3 "..... (you/go) out last night?" "No, I was too tired."
- 4 How fast ..... (you/drive) when the accident ..... (happen)?
- 5 Sam ..... (take) a picture of me while I ..... (not/look).
- 6 We were in a very difficult position. We ..... (not/know) what to do,  
so we ..... (do) nothing.
- 7 I haven't seen Josh for ages. When I last ..... (see) him, he  
..... (try) to find a job.
- 8 I ..... (walk) along the street when suddenly I .....  
(hear) something behind me. Somebody ..... (follow) me. I was  
scared, and I ..... (start) to run.
- 9 When I was young, I ..... (want) to be a pilot. Later I .....  
(change) my mind.
- 10 Last night I ..... (drop) a plate when I ..... (do) the dishes.  
Fortunately, it ..... (not/break).



## Present Perfect (I have done)

A Study this example conversation:

- DAVE: **Have** you **traveled** a lot, Liz?  
 LIZ: Yes, I've **been** to lots of places.  
 DAVE: Really? **Have** you ever **been** to China?  
 LIZ: Yes, I've **been** to China twice.  
 DAVE: What about India?  
 LIZ: No, I **haven't been** to India.



**Have/Has + traveled/been/done, etc. (past participle)** is the present perfect:

I/we/they/you <b>have</b> (= I've, etc.)	<b>traveled</b>
he/she/it <b>has</b> (= he's, etc.)	<b>been</b>
	<b>done, etc.</b>

The past participle often ends in **-ed** (traveled/decided, etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (**been/done/written**, etc.). For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been / have traveled**, etc.). In the conversation in A, Dave and Liz are talking about the places Liz **has visited** in her life, which is a period that continues until now. Some more examples:

- ☐ **Have** you **ever eaten** caviar?
- ☐ We've **never had** a car.
- ☐ I don't know what the movie is about. I **haven't seen** it.
- ☐ Susan really loves that book. She's **read** it three times. (She's = She **has**)
- ☐ It's a really boring movie. It's the most boring movie I've **ever seen**.

C In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (**recently, in the last few days, so far, since I arrived**, etc.):

- ☐ **Have** you **heard** anything from Ben **recently**?
- ☐ I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**.
- ☐ Everything is going well. There **haven't been** any problems **so far**.
- ☐ The weather is bad here. It's (= It **has**) **rained** every day **since I arrived**. (= from when I arrived until now)
- ☐ It's good to see you again. We **haven't seen** each other **for a long time**.

—————recently—————  
 ———in the last few days———  
 ———since I arrived—————  
 past

In the same way we use the present perfect with **today, this evening, this year**, etc., when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking:

- ☐ I've **had** four cups of coffee **today**.
- ☐ **Have** you **taken** a vacation **this year**?
- ☐ I **haven't seen** Tom **this morning**. **Have** you?

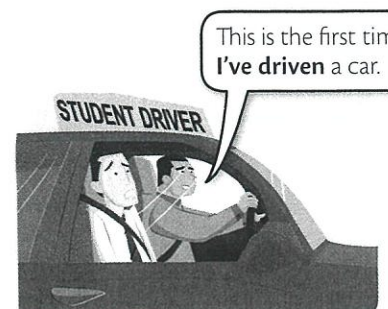
—————today—————  
 past

D We say "It's the (first) time something **has happened**." For example:

- Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first lesson.  
 We can say:  
 It's the first time he **has driven** a car. (*not drives*)  
 or He **hasn't driven** a car **before**.  
 or He **has never driven** a car **before**.

In the same way we say:

- ☐ Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this **has happened**. (*not happens*)
- ☐ Andy is calling his girlfriend again. That's the third time he's **called** her **tonight**.





# Exercises

Unit  
7

**7.1** You ask people about things they have done. Write questions with **ever**.

- 1 (ride / horse?) *Have you ever ridden a horse?*
- 2 (be / California?) Have .....
- 3 (run / marathon?) .....
- 4 (speak / famous person?) .....
- 5 (most beautiful place / visit?) What's .....

**7.2** Complete B's answers. Some sentences are affirmative and some negative. Use these verbs:

**be be eat happen have have meet play read see try**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>A</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 What's John's sister like?</li> <li>2 Is everything going well?</li> <li>3 Are you hungry?</li> <li>4 Can you play chess?</li> <li>5 Are you enjoying your vacation?</li> <li>6 What's that book about?</li> <li>7 Is Brussels an interesting place?</li> <li>8 I hear your car broke down again yesterday.</li> <li>9 Do you like caviar?</li> <li>10 Mike was late for work again today.</li> <li>11 Who's that woman by the door?</li> </ol> | <p><b>B</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 I have no idea. <i>I've never met</i> her.</li> <li>2 Yes, we <i>haven't had</i> any problems so far.</li> <li>3 Yes. I ..... much today.</li> <li>4 Yes, but ..... for ages.</li> <li>5 Yes, it's the best vacation ..... for a long time.</li> <li>6 I don't know. .... it.</li> <li>7 I have no idea. .... there.</li> <li>8 Yes, it's the second time ..... this month.</li> <li>9 I don't know. .... it.</li> <li>10 Again? He ..... late every day this week.</li> <li>11 I don't know. .... her before.</li> </ol> |
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**7.3** Write four sentences about yourself. Use **I haven't** and choose from the boxes.

**used a computer    taken a bus    eaten any fruit**  
**been to the movies    read a book    lost anything**

- 1 *I haven't used a computer today.*
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

**today  
this week  
recently  
for ages  
since ...  
this year**

**7.4** Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 Jack is driving a car for the first time. He's very nervous and not sure what to do.  
*It's the first time he's driven* a car.
- 2 Some children at the zoo are looking at a giraffe. They've never seen one before.  
It's the first time ..... a giraffe.
- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.  
She ..... before.
- 4 Joe and Lauren are on vacation in Japan. They've been to Japan once before.  
This is the second time .....
- 5 Emily is staying at the Prince Hotel. She stayed there a few years ago.  
It's not the first ..... this hotel.
- 6 Ben is playing tennis for the first time. He's a complete beginner.  
..... before.