



Grammar Exercises

Exercise 6.1 Simple present Tense

- * For each of the following sentences, underline the appropriate verb from the pair in parentheses.
 - * Example: Mobile Bay (Plays/ playing) host to one of nature's most unusual phenomena.
1. A cry of “Jubilee!” (means/meant) that a multitude of fish and crabs have come ashore in mobile Bay.
 2. No one (knew/knows) for sure what causes a jubilee to happen.
 3. Yet jubilees sometimes (took/take) place without all of these conditions present.
 4. Regardless of what causes a jubilee, the citizens of the Mobile Bay area (thank/ thanks) Mother Nature for delicious gift.

Exercise 6.2 Simple Past Tense

* Write the past tense form of the verb in parentheses in the blank.

* Example Pirates kidnapped (kidnap) beautiful women on the high seas throughout their long history.

1. The waves crash against the side of the schooner as the captain reconsidered the validity of his voyage.
2. He thought (think) that he knew the exact location of his daughter, but now he was not certain.
3. The first mate found (find) Genevieve sleeping in an open tent, and she was rescued.
4. What a surprise for the pirates the next morning when they discovered (discover) that she was missing, and on her pillow was a note from Captain Westbrook daring the pirates to come find him.

Exercise 6.3 Present and Past Tense

- * For each of the following sentences, underline the appropriate verb from the pair in parentheses.
- * Example: when I first came to the United States, I (speak/spoke) only a few words of English.
- 1. After I arrived in this country, I immediately (go/went) to a very large school.
- 2. I (remember/remembered) that my fourth-grade teachers used to give me books of pictures and alphabet letters.
- 3. The following fall, I (start/started) college.
- 4. Now I (take/took) courses in business and computer programming to prepare for a career.

Exercise 6.4 Present and Past Tense

* In each of the following sentences, change the italicized verb to the appropriate tense.

began

* Example: Several years ago, many states ~~*began*~~ administering standardized tests in public schools.

1. In 2002, my eight-grade teacher told us we have to take our state's mandated math and reading tests at the end of the school year.
2. My teacher spends the whole spring of 2003 drilling us on the practice tests.
3. Now I think of those results and remembered the eighth grade fondly.
4. I still believe that kids learned more in school when less time is spent on test preparation.

Exercise 6.5 Present perfect Tense

- * Fill in each blank with the present perfect tense of the verb in parentheses.
- * Example: In recent years, politicians and scientists have proposed (propose) many new technologies to reduce our use of oil.
- 1. For example, many automakers _____ (begin) to make hybrid cars or cars that run on both gasoline and electricity.
- 2. Two of the most popular hybrid cars lately _____ (be) the Honda Insight and the Toyota Prius.
- 3. Another new technology that many scientists and policy makers _____ (mention) is the hydrogen fuel cell.
- 4. We _____ (wait) a long time for alternatives to gasoline to be developed.

I hope a feasible alternative becomes available soon.

Exercise 6.6 Present perfect Tense

- * Fill in the blank with the correct past participle to form the present perfect tense. Every verb in this exercise takes an irregular past participle form.
 - * Example: How to save our environment has become (became) a concern for everyone from schoolchildren to adults across the globe.
1. Many scientists have _____ (speak) about our need to make changes in our daily lifestyles.
 2. Recycling containers have _____ (became) visible in schoolyard across the country.
 3. In many ways, our lives have already _____ (begin) to change.
 4. Thankfully, public awareness has _____ (make) all of us think about our part in the cycle of life and a healthier future.

Exercise 6.7 Past perfect Tense

Fill in blank with the correct past perfect verb form.

Example: Roberto Clemente, perhaps the most famous professional baseball player from Latin Americas, died in a tragic airplane accident in 1972. At the time of his death, clement had set (set) many records and had accomplished (accomplish) many feats in the game of baseball.

1. Robert was born in 1932 in San Anton, Puerto Rico. His mother, Luisa, _____ (have four other children from a previous marriage before giving birth to Roberto.
2. Roberto's father worked in sugar mill. Sugar _____ (become) the main industry in Puerto Rico by the time Roberto was born.
3. At the time of his death, Clemente (accumulate) 3,000 hits and _____ (acquire a lifetime batting average of .317. He also _____ (win) twelve Gold Glove Awards.
4. On march 20, 1973, the Baseball writers association of America voted to put Roberto Clemente into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Up to this time, no other player from Latin America _____ (be) given this honor.

Exercise 6.8 Future perfect tense

- * Fill in each blank with the correct future perfect form of the verb in parentheses.
 - * Example; the electronic book has become very popular in recent years. Many people think that by 2015, the electronic book will have become (become) as popular as the print book.
1. An electronic book, or an e-book, is a book that is purchased online and downloaded to a computer or an electronic device. Some estimates say that by 2010, every book that will be printed in hard-copy form _____ (publish) in e-book form as well.
 2. By the time our children become adults, they probably _____ (read) quite a few e-books.
 3. Of course, many people do not believe e-books will replace printed books. I hope this will not be the case. If this does happen, hopefully I _____ (reach) such an old age that it won't matter if I can read a computer screen or not.
 4. By the time bookstores go out of business because of e-books, I _____ (become) too old and too tired to walk to a bookstore anyway!

Exercise 6.9 Perfect Tenses

* Fill in the blank with the correct perfect verb tense. Then identify each verb as present perfect, past perfect, or future perfect tense.

* Example: Students have participated (participate) in student government for seventy-five years in American high schools and universities. *Present perfect*

1. Our university student body president _____ (consider) running for public office upon graduation.
2. Upon graduation, she _____ (spend) four years serving the students of Farriers University.
3. Megan _____ (assure her parents that no matter what she chooses, she will work diligently to world a better place.
4. By the time of commencement, Megan _____ (decide) on career choice, and she is planning to announce what it is during her address to the student body.

Exercise 6.10 Progressive Tenses

- * Of the two choices in parentheses, underline the choice that is correct.
 - * Example: The Alford family (are moving/ is moving) to Austin, Texas.
1. Dr. Alford (was teaching/ has been teaching) as an adjunct professor at the University of Texas during the past three years.
 2. Dr. Alford (was receiving/has been receiving) wonderful evaluation from his students this year in particular.
 3. No matter where they live, the Alford family (is looking/ are looking) forward to Dr. Alford's dream being realized.
 4. Now that Dr. Alford has achieved his career goal, Mrs. Alford (is wondering/ are wondering) what her next step should be.

Exercise 6.11 Active and passive Voice

- * Of the two choices in parentheses, underline the choice that is correct.
 - * Example: The first e-mail system (used/was used) by the Massachusetts Institute of technology in 1965.
1. Electronic mail, or e-mail (invented/was invented) by many people.
 2. When computers began to be networked together in the late 1960s, a system had to (develop/ be developed) to allow users of different computers to communicate with each other:
 3. While Tomlinson and Roberts developed many advancements that allowed the use of e-mail to grow, neither one (can call/ can be called) the inventor of e-mail.
 4. As the World Wide Web Began to develop, e-mail (made/ was made) available to masses of people as a means to communicate by computer.

Exercise 6.12 Active and Passive Voice

* Fill in the blank with the correct voice of the verb-either active voice or passive voice.

* Example: the World Is Flat was written (write) by Thomas Friedman.

1. In the book, Friedman _____ (analyze) the development of globalization throughout the world.
2. The book _____ (release) in 2005, but then expended editions _____ (publish) in 2006 and again in 2007.
3. He also says that young people should _____ (encourage) to study science, engineering, and mathematics.
4. The book _____ (generate) much discussion, as not all people have agreed with its conclusions.

Exercise 6.13 Modals

- * For each of the following sentences, underline the appropriate modal from the pair in parentheses.
- * Example: Fifty years ago, most people (cannot/could not) learn to use computers.

- 1. Today, few Americans (will/would) consider living without the conveniences they take for granted.
- 2. People in the United States (can/could) perform many daily tasks easily because tools to simplify life are widely available.
- 3. Washing dishes by hand (would/should) take more human effort than loading a dishwasher, and filling a sink to wash dishes (might/may) even use more water than running the machine.
- 4. (would/will) American ever miss doing chores the old fashioned way?

Exercise 6.14 Modals

- * revise each of the following sentences to show the correct use of modals.
 - * Example: Before I enrolled at the university, I thought that getting any kind of degree would help me get a job.
1. I soon discovered that I must choose a major after two years of coursework.
 2. I cannot decide what career field interested me most, so selecting a major was difficult.
 3. I can't wait until I start work as an engineer.
 4. In the meantime, my professors tell me that I would study diligently to prepare for my career.

Exercise 6.15 Modals

* For each of the following sentences, fill in the blank with an appropriate modal and the correct form of the verb given in parentheses. More than one answer may be correct.

* Example: People who are considering travel outside their native country should learn (learn) about the culture and language of the country they plan to visit.

1. If I had planned the time before my trip more carefully, I _____(study) the language and culture before travelling.

2. In my first weeks out of my own country, I _____(struggle) to communicate in all my interactions with people.

3. Besides, I _____(miss) my new friends if I left this country.

4. When my family comes to visit me here, I _____(prepare) them for the many cultural differences I encountered here over a year ago.

Exercise 6.16 To be Verbs

- * For each of the following sentences, underline the appropriate form of the verb given in parentheses
 - * Example: the benny Goodman Orchestra (was/were) famous for playing big band music.
1. Attending orchestral concerts (is/are) a great source of fun for people of all ages.
 2. Matt, Ling, and I (are/am) attending a concert tonight.
 3. I (am/are) meeting them at the venue at six o'clock.
 4. I wonder if you know how to swing dance, because I (are/am) going to learn and I need a partner.

Exercise 6.17 To be verbs

- * Fill in the blank with the correct form of the to be verb
- * Example: At this moment, Laura is in line waiting to buy tickets.
- * In the past, Neal
(1.) ___ Quit a frivolous spender. He and his friends 2. ___
___ frequently investing most of their paychecks in dining out
and entertainment. His parents cautioned Neal that he (3.)
___ squandering his money and that he needed to (4.) ___ more
conscientious about his spending. Neal realized that his parents
(5.) ___ right. He worked diligently to develop a budget for
himself. This strategy worked, and in fact Neal (6.) ___
___ now very frugal. He packs a lunch to take with him to
work, and he (7.) ___ now a regular at the dollar movie
theater. I (8.) ___ impressed with the changes that he has made.
Though Neal once (9.) ___ a person who was a free spender, he
(10.) ___ now a person with a hefty balance in his saving account

Exercise 6.19 Simple, perfect, and progressive Verb Phrases

- * Revise each of the following sentences by correcting errors in verb phrases, using simple, perfect, and progressive verb forms where appropriate
 - * Example: In 1954, the U.S. Super Court ~~has~~ desegregated education, declaring that “ separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.”
1. Since then, the stats often challenged the federal government either by ignoring or refusing to implement the decision or by filing court cases.
 2. The case of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, has been one of the most famous examples of a state fighting this federal mandate.
 3. In addition, support for integration decline in the current political climate.
 4. Today, the fight for desegregation was largely replaced by the fight for quality educatio0n for all students.

Exercise 6.20 Simple, perfect and progression Verb Phrases

- * For each of the following paragraphs, underline the appropriate verb phrase from the pair in parentheses.
- * Example in the past ten years, bottled water (become/has become) increasingly popular in America.
- * While I (shopped/was shopping) at a grocery store last week, I (countered/was countering) five different brands of bottled water on the shelves. These days, bottled water (cost/is costing) more than carbonated beverages, but many consumers now (feels/are feeling) that good healthy is worth the greater price.
- * Nutrition experts (have observed/have been observing) that Americans (consume/ have consumed) too much soda and junk food. Prior to these findings, some parents (noticed/ have noticed) that their children were more sluggish and inattentive after they (had eaten/were eating) junk food. In many cases, they (had been snacking/have been snacking) at school.

* Exercise 6.20 Simple, perfect and progression Verb Phrases

- * Now nutrition experts insist that children (need/ are needing) breakfast before school so that they (do not stop/have not been stopping) at vending machines for sodas or greasy snacks. Because studies (showed/ have shown) that students perform better when they eat nutrition foods, some schools (consider/ are considering) a ban on certain junk food and soda machines.
- * However, many parents (believe/are believing) that good nutrition should be enforced by parents, not schools. They (resent/are resenting) being told by the school administration what not to put in their children's lunch. Based on recent sales of bottled water, it (appears/ is appearing) that consumers (make/ are making) better nutritional choices.

Exercise 6.20 Simple, perfect and progression Verb Phrases-

* For each of the following sentences, underline the appropriate determiner from the pair in parentheses. X means “no determiner.”

* Example: Getting (X/a) good education is the most certain way to get a good job.

1. Many people decide to immigrate to the United States for their (children/ children's) education.
2. Immigrant parents must also worry about finding (a/ some) job to support their families
3. (every/ all) children should have an equal opportunity to be educated and find fulfilling work.
4. Perhaps somebody (X/ this) ideal will become a reality for all of (America/ America's) children.

Determiners-

* Each of the following sentences contain an error in the use of determiners. Revise each sentences by adding, Deleting, and changing determiners wherever appropriate.

* Example: The average American is afraid to speak in front ^a↑ groups.

1. In fact, person who cannot speak well in public is unlikely to be promoted to an executive position.
2. Much businesses today expect executives to be good public speakers.
3. People who have an extreme problem with public speaking might need professional help.
4. Many organizations can help to be conquer a businessperson fear of giving speeches.

(Determiners)

- * Underline the appropriate determine from the pair in parentheses.
- * Example: Craving (a few? A little) sugar can be a lifetime struggle for most people.
- * Some people believe that having(1.)(any/a few) sweets in you diet will not harm your health. Others say that even (2.) (a little/ a few) bit of sugar can be harmful. Most will admit that not eating.(any/ a few) dessert will be tempting. Like most things, though, moderation is key: don't torture yourself; have (10.) (a little/ a few) bit of dessert.

* Determiners

* Full in blank with the correct determiner. Use a few, a little, or any.

* Example: I didn't read any books over the summer.

1. The book store manger placed an order for _____ books on making stained glass and one special book on antiques from ABC Books.
2. The books were expected to arrive in _____ days.
3. Also, instead of receiving one special book on antiques, the bookstore received quite _____ books on antiques.
4. The bookstore manger decided that the next time he ordered books, he would order from _____ store other than ABC Books.

{Determiners}

- * Underline the appropriate determiner from the pair in parentheses.
- * Example: The problem with (much/ many) athletes is that their decision to go to college depends on their ability to play a sport.
- * (1.0) (much/many) student athletes go on to a university if they receive an athletic scholarship. There are (2.) (many/ much) universities that recruit the best athletes from high schools around the country. There is (3.) (many? Much) controversy surrounding athletes who get preferential treatment in their academic courses if they are not doing well. (4.)(much/ many) sports and athletes because they recognize the potential income an athlete might bring.

Determiners

- * Underline the appropriate determiner from the pair in parentheses.
 - * Example: For (some/any) people, choosing a car is easy. They purchase the same make and model year after year.
1. Automobile manufactures in the United States face competition from (some/ any) of the other big automobile makers around the world.
 2. If you look at (some/ any) one manufacturer, you will find a variety of vehicles introduced every year.
 3. One thing is for certain: (some/ any) car must meet certain safety regulations.
 4. Here is (any/some) advice: test- drive any car before you buy.

*Determiners

* Fill in blank with the correct determiner, using this or these.

* Example: it was his job to take good care of the fine wood pieces of furniture were made of.

1. _____ Store sells fine furniture made from real wood.
2. First, the sales associate showed us _____ dressers and beds, which are made from oak.
3. I also like it because I found _____ pillows to coordinate with it.
4. _____ might be the last furniture store I will have to look in.