

1

Our people

Grammar

Verb forms to talk about the past

- 1 Read part of a story about a woman returning home and then put the verbs in brackets into the correct past tense.

As Anne drove west, she (1)felt..... (feel) almost as though she were driving in a dream. But as she (2) (get) closer to home, there was an excitement she (3) (not experience) for years. She (4) (live) abroad for so long that she (5) (forget) what it was like to feel that you really belonged somewhere. Her family were there, in her village, and they (6) (wait) for her. As she (7) (come) over the hill, the view (8) (be) the same as it (9) (always / be). She noticed a young man who (10) (walk) purposefully towards the centre of the village. As the car drew near, he (11) (turn) and (12) (nod) as people do in this part of the world. She (13) (not realise) until then that it was Niall, a boy she (14) (babysit) many times when she was a teenager. So not everything (15) (stay) the same. Anne herself (16) (also / change) of course. The night before, she (17) (stay) in a hotel in Dublin and the receptionist (18) (ask) her '(19) (you / be) to Ireland before?' But what could she expect when her accent (20) (almost / disappear)?



- 2 Read each pair of sentences and then answer the question which follows.

- 1 A Katrina studied Portuguese when she arrived in Brazil.
B Katrina has been studying Portuguese since she arrived in Brazil.
In which sentence is Katrina still in Brazil? B.....
- 2 A My brother was always borrowing my things when we were teenagers.
B My brother always borrowed my things when we were teenagers.
In which sentence does the speaker seem slightly irritated?
- 3 A Has Richard rung this morning?
B Did Richard ring this morning?
In which sentence is it still morning?
- 4 A My school team won the regional championship five times.
B My school team has won the regional championship five times since 1997.
In which sentence does the speaker think the team might win the regional championship again?
- 5 A When Giulia got home, her friends made her a meal.
B When Giulia got home, her friends had made her a meal.
In which sentence was the meal ready when Giulia arrived?

Used to

- 3 Look at the past tense verbs in these sentences. Rewrite any sentence where the verb can be replaced by *used to*. Write 'No' for any sentence that cannot be changed.

- 1 ^{Did parents use to be}
~~Were~~ parents stricter with their children fifty years ago, do you think?
- 2 After I left school, I went abroad twice to work as an au pair.
- 3 People wrote letters by hand or on a typewriter until computers became widespread.
- 4 Is lunch still as important in your country as it was?
- 5 My father has worked in several different countries so I've been to lots of different schools.
- 6 I spent last summer helping my grandparents decorate their house.
- 7 Did you get as stressed at your last job as you do here?
- 8 I speak Russian quite well as I studied it for four years.
- 9 Japanese people didn't eat as much chicken in the past as they do now.
- 10 Wasn't there a factory on this site until a few years ago?

Used to and be/get used to

4 *Used to* and *be/get used to* have different meanings and forms. Look at these sentences written by exam candidates. Find the mistake in each one and then correct it.

- 1 The children hate walking because they are ~~use~~^{used} to going everywhere by car.
- 2 Some students are used to eat a snack during classes.
- 3 Hockey didn't used to be very popular in Spain.
- 4 Even if you find joining a new school difficult at first, you will soon get used to.
- 5 Were you used to work under pressure in your old job?
- 6 If you do not used to walking every day, you will find a trekking holiday very difficult.
- 7 Have you got used to cook for yourself?
- 8 José use to be a good swimmer when he was younger.
- 9 Travel helps you be used to different ways of doing things.
- 10 Laura was used to have a lot of noise around her because she came from a big family.

Vocabulary

Adjectives describing personality

1 Choose one word from the box to fit in the gap in each sentence. There are two words that don't fit anywhere.

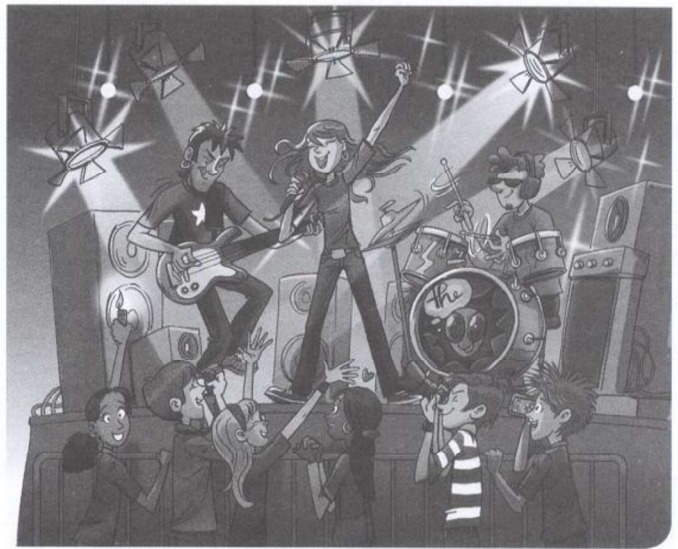
competent conscientious genuine idealistic
insensitive ~~modest~~ outgoing protective
self-centred unconventional

- 1 You should tell everyone about the prize you won – you're much too~~modest~~.....
- 2 Jamie is very about making sure he does a job properly and to the best of his ability.
- 3 My Spanish isn't brilliant but I'm enough to write an email or book a hotel.
- 4 Peter is so to those around him that he doesn't even notice when he upsets someone.
- 5 Many of us are when we're young and think we can change the way the world works.
- 6 My brother is extremely and simply loves meeting new people.
- 7 Anna is a very person; you can always trust that she means what she says.
- 8 Joanna has always been extremely of her little brother because he is several years younger than her.

Collocations with give, do and make

2 Look at these sentences written by exam candidates and then choose the correct verb.

- 1 Our college gives / makes us a wide choice of subjects to study.
- 2 The students were asked to give / make their opinions about the new menu in the canteen.
- 3 We do / make a lot of business with American companies.
- 4 The politician asked the newspaper to do / make an apology for the inaccuracies in their report.
- 5 I have done / made hundreds of exercises on grammar and vocabulary this week.
- 6 We can give / make a discount to our regular customers.
- 7 The strike didn't do / make any harm to local businesses.
- 8 Silva gave / made a remark about her sister which I thought was a bit unkind.
- 9 The college hopes to do / make a profit by selling its magazine.
- 10 The bus company has done / made improvements to the services it offers.
- 11 It is too late to repair some of the damage done / made to the environment.
- 12 It is worth doing / making an effort to look back at what you've learnt.
- 13 Nowadays both men and women do / make the housework but it wasn't like that in the past.
- 14 You will have to do / make your own bed every morning while you are living here.
- 15 The band gave / made the best performance of their lives last night.



Reading and Use of English | Part 5

You are going to read an extract from an autobiography. For questions 1–6, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.



Richard Benson:
author of extract
'A visit home'.

A visit Home

Amid the swarming, clattering travellers, railway staff and suitcases, I saw the thick, dark eyebrows of my brother Guy lift by approximately one millimetre in greeting as I came down the steps of the footbridge and out into the station forecourt. Guy speaks like most men in the village we come from, i.e. not at all until he has spent five minutes considering whether there are other means of communication he can use instead. His

line 12 favourites are the eyebrow-raise, the shrug, and the brief tilt of his chin; if he is feeling particularly emotional, he may perform all three together. That morning, as I worked my bags through the other passengers, he kept his eyebrows raised. Standing in his work clothes, he looked rather out of place, resembling a large, solitary rusty nail in the midst of, but apart from, the crowd of people: his steel-capped boots, battered, formless jacket and heavy stubble seemed to be causing many people
line 19 to give him a wide berth, diverting their path to the exit rather than heading for it directly.

'Hello, Guy,' I said.

'Now then,' he replied. 'Give me one of your bags.'

'Thank you,' I said, and passed him a large bag.

'Whatever have you got in here?' he exclaimed.

My brother is appalled by indulgences such as luggage, although his exclamations are less aggressive than resignedly bemused. With Guy, you have to understand that when he asks what on earth you've got in a bag, it is a way of saying, 'Hello, how are you?'

'It'll be the computer that's heavy. And there are some books,' I explained.

'Books,' he said wearily, shaking his head.

'Sorry.'

'Doesn't matter,' he said. 'It's not that heavy.' He yanked the bag up onto his shoulder.

'It's nice to see you, Guy.'

Guy raised his eyebrows and chin five millimetres, and strode off towards the car park.

I felt relieved by his distracted, unemotional expression because it was usual: since he was a small child he had gone through much of life looking as if he was pondering the answer to a complex mathematical problem. But as I caught up with him and looked at him from the side, I noticed dark half-circles below his eyes.

'Are you all right, then?' I said.

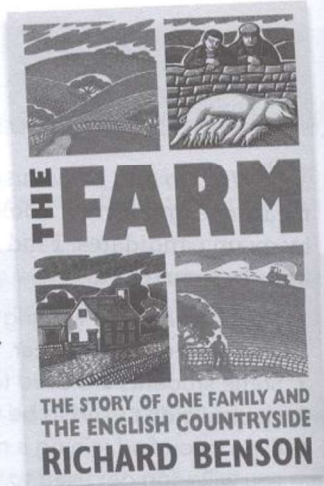
He raised his eyebrows again, and blew out through pursed lips. He looked as if he were trying to pop the features off his face. Then he gave me the sort of consolation smile you give people when they've asked a stupid question, batted his lashed black-brown eyes and shrugged.

'You look a bit worn out,' I said.

'I should think I do,' he said. 'I've been doing twelve-hour days on the farm since July. Sling your bags into the back of the van then.'

This was not as straightforward as he made it sound. He used the van as a workshop, storage unit and mobile home, and so as well as the usual driving-dregs of sweet wrappers and plastic bottles, there was farm equipment of an often surprising scale – straw bales, black polythene barrels, bundles of shovels and forks, metal toolboxes which were themselves almost as large as small cars, and other tools which I did not recognise or understand. Intermingled with that were random, inexplicable household articles: sofa cushions, half a dozen plant pots and a roll of carpet.

It takes only twenty minutes to drive through the hills to our village, but that day the journey seemed to take forever. Neither of us could think of anything to say to each other so Guy pretended to concentrate on the speed of his windscreen wipers which were keeping the driving rain off the windscreen so he could see the road ahead. I, on the other hand, leant my forehead against the side window, looking out at the scenery which was so familiar to me but was actually obliterated by the horizontal rain.



- 1 What aspect of Guy's personality is the writer reinforcing when he says 'if he is feeling particularly emotional, he may perform all three together' (lines 12-13)?
- A His facial expressions are difficult to interpret.
 B His speech is always backed up by non-verbal expressions.
 C He is very controlled when expressing his feelings.
 D He can give out conflicting messages about what he is thinking.
- 2 What is meant by many people giving Guy 'a wide berth' (line 19)?
- A People were staring at him because of the way he looked.
 B People were getting annoyed with him because he was in their way.
 C People did not understand what he was doing there.
 D People did not feel comfortable getting too close to him.
- 3 How does the writer feel when Guy complains about his bag?
- A He knows he shouldn't take the complaint seriously.
 B He thinks Guy is making an unnecessary fuss.
 C He wishes Guy had not greeted him with a complaint.
 D He is embarrassed about bringing so much luggage.
- 4 As they walk towards the car park, the writer realises that
- A he is not being sensitive enough about Guy's situation.
 B there is a change in Guy's normal behaviour.
 C Guy's expression seems more worried than usual.
 D he had more reason to be concerned about Guy than he initially thought.
- 5 What does the writer exaggerate when he is describing the back of the van?
- A the combination of items
 B the size of some of the contents
 C how old some of the contents were
 D how many items were unnecessary
- 6 What does the writer say about the journey in the van?
- A He preferred to look out at the countryside rather than talk.
 B He didn't speak to Guy because the driving conditions were difficult.
 C The fact that they travelled in silence seemed to make it longer.
 D It was much slower than usual because of the weather.

Writing | Part 1

An essay

Read this essay written by a student and the teacher's notes and then rewrite the essay, making the corrections that the teacher suggests.

Essay: Is it better to travel alone, or with other people?

In my opinion, travelling is very exciting, and all people, including me, likes to travel, because it is allowing you to meet new countries and cultures. But that which you have to decide is if you should travel alone, or with others. There are advantages and disadvantages to each. If you travel alone, you are free to going anywhere; there is no one who will deny to follow you to the place you want to go! However, you may feel extremely lonely. You haven't got anyone to enjoy the trip with. Except from that, a solo trip is more expensive, because you have to pay for everything yourself and you can't divide the cost with anyone. In case you travel with your friends, you will enjoy the journey more than if you are alone. Humans are social creatures and to be with someone else is good for your mind. With friends, the travel will not be boring! In fact, there aren't many disadvantages to travelling with friends. The only one is that you might be disagree with them about the places you want to visit. This isn't a serious disadvantage, because sooner or later you have to reach a decision. Finally, you could travel with your parents. This is the best case because you aren't responsible for anything and you go everywhere your parents go. You probably haven't to pay for anything yourself. However, if you are above the years of eighteen, you won't want to travel with your parents, because this will guide you, which is something you don't want. You must want to decide what to do and this is impossible with your parents around.

This is a good essay, but there are a few things you can do to improve it.

- In several places I've underlined where you've used the wrong word or expression, and you need to replace them with one of these words:
age, apart, discover, everyone, if, journey, refuse, restrict, share, solution, what, whether.
- I've shown six verbs where you've used the wrong form or tense.
- Please divide your essay into four paragraphs!

Listening | Part 4

02 You will hear five short extracts in which people are talking about their friends.

TASK ONE

For questions 1–5, choose from the list (A–H) how each speaker originally met their friend.

- A at a musical event
- B on public transport
- C through a relative
- D at school
- E through another friend
- F at work
- G at a sporting event
- H as a neighbour

Speaker 1 1

Speaker 2 2

Speaker 3 3

Speaker 4 4

Speaker 5 5

TASK TWO

For questions 6–10, choose from the list (A–H) the quality each speaker's friend has.

A a talent for listening

B a reluctance to criticise

C a desire to share

D willingness to apologise

E kindness to others

F enthusiasm for new ideas

G an ability to keep secrets

H continual optimism

Speaker 1 6

Speaker 2 7

Speaker 3 8

Speaker 4 9

Speaker 5 10

While you listen you must complete both tasks.

