

1

Home and away!

The tense system • Informal language • Compound words • Casual conversations

TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

- 1 Which time expressions from the box can be used with the sentences below? Make sure the sentences sound natural.

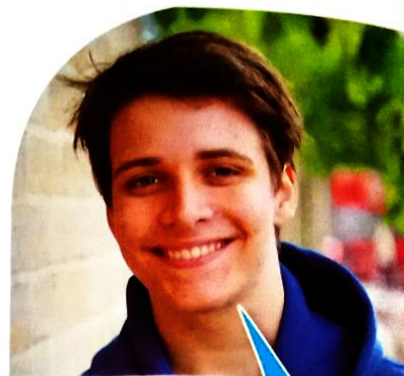
when I was born never for ages
tonight frequently in the 1980s
ages ago the other day
in a fortnight's time recently
during a snowstorm for a year
since 1972 later sometimes

- 1 My parents met in Paris.
 - 2 They travel abroad.
 - 3 They were working in Canada.
 - 4 I was born in Montreal.
 - 5 My grandparents have lived in Ireland.
 - 6 I wrote to my grandmother.
 - 7 My brother's flying to Brazil on business.
 - 8 He's been learning Portuguese.
 - 9 I'll see you.
- 2 Talk to a partner about yourself and your family using some of the time expressions.
My parents met at a party thirty years ago.
Tell the class some things about each other.

AWAY FROM HOME

Tense review and informal language

- 1 **T.I.I.** Listen and read 'Tyler's Tweets'.
Is the style formal or informal?
Where is Tyler from? What does he find strange in London?



I'm spending a year in London!



TYLER'S TWEETS

Tuesday, September 4, 1.42 p.m.

Still sitting in the airport in NYC. Been waiting three hours but seems like FOREVER!

Tuesday, September 4, 3.20 p.m.

Just boarded the plane for London. My first trip abroad except for a week in Mexico last year. I'm going to stay with my buddy Dave for a few days in north London before I meet my host family. Dave lives in a place called 'Chalk Farm'. I don't get it – a farm in London?



Thursday, September 6, 4.35 p.m.

It's fun here but kind of weird. Dave doesn't live on a farm. His folks have a large apartment in a big old house. They call it a 'flat'. I asked for the 'bathroom' – they thought I wanted a bath. I'm learning fast.

Friday, September 7, 10.30 a.m.

Dave and I are hanging out together today. We're on a bus! Upstairs! OMG! Just drove past Buckingham Palace. But they drive on the WRONG side of the road here. Crazy! Also, people say 'cheers' all the time. Isn't that for making toasts? A guy just said it to me because I'd let him pass.

Saturday, September 8, 7.19 p.m.

First night with my host family, the Wilsons. They seem very nice, but their house is a million-mile walk to the subway! (They call it the 'Tube' here!)

Saturday, September 8, 11.10 p.m.

Big day tomorrow. We're visiting Shakespeare's hometown. He wrote plays and stuff hundreds of years ago. He's mega famous.



2 Complete the questions and answers. Then ask and answer them with a partner.

- 1 'Where is Tyler spending the year?'
'In London.'
- 2 'Is this his first trip abroad?'
'No, it _____. He _____ abroad once before.
Last year he _____ to Mexico.'
- 3 'Where _____ Dave _____?'
'In north London.'
- 4 'How long _____ Tyler _____ to stay with Dave?'
'A few days.'
- 5 'Why _____ the guy say 'cheers' to Tyler?'
'Because he _____ him pass.'
- 6 '_____ he like his host family?'
'Yes, he _____. He _____ they're very nice.'
- 7 'What _____ they _____ on Sunday?'
'They _____ Shakespeare's hometown.'

3 **T1.2** Listen and check your answers.

4 Read Teresa's email. Where is she? Is she working or on holiday? What are some of her likes and dislikes about the place?

5 Form the questions. Ask and answer them with a partner.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 How long/Teresa/Africa? | 5 What/take home? |
| 2 What time/start work? | 6 How many/collect already? |
| 3 What/just buy? | 7 What/do at the beach? |
| 4 Where/last Sunday? | 8 What/sending to her parents? |

T1.3 Listen and check your answers.

From: Teresa Sayers <teri.says@yoohoo.com>
To: "mum n dad" <m.b.sayers@chatchat.net>
Subject: Hotter and hotter in Tanga!

Hi Mum! Hi Dad!

Thanks for yours – always love news from home. Since I arrived here last September, it's been getting hotter and hotter. Wish we had air conditioning and not just two rubbish fans. Thank goodness I start work early, 7.00. It's the only cool (no – less hot) time of day in Tanzania. But hey, I have some cool news. I just bought a bike – well not exactly a bike, a 'piki-piki'. It's a kind of little motorbike. Everyone has one. Great for getting around. Don't freak, Mum! I'm really careful, 'specially on the bumpy road to school.

Last Sunday a group of us (on our piki-pikis of course!) headed up the coast to a really awesome beach, Pangani Beach. Incredible white sand, covered with fabulous shells. Did I tell you? 'Shelling' is a really popular pastime here. I've already collected hundreds – some are huge, all shades of pink and orange. I'm going to bring a few home. Anyway, we took a load of picnic stuff and barbecued fish and swam until the sun went down. The sunsets here are unbelievable – very quick but spectacular. I'm sending you some photos with this email.

So – that's it for now. Missing you millions. Can't wait to see you.

Love, Teri

PS Hey – I think I hear raindrops on the roof.



LANGUAGE FOCUS

- 1 Name the tenses used in exercises 2 and 5. Why are they used?
- 2 Informal writing often has lots of colloquial language and missing words.
Still sitting in the airport. = I'm still sitting in the airport.
kind of weird = fairly strange
guy = man
- 3 Read the tweets and email again.
 - 1 What do 'my buddy', 'I don't get it', 'hanging out together', 'stuff', and 'mega famous' mean in Tyler's tweets?
 - 2 Find colloquial words in Teresa's email and express them less colloquially.
 - 3 Find examples in both texts where words are missing. Which words?

► Grammar Reference p139



PRACTICE

Identifying the tenses

1 Complete the tense charts. Use the verb *work* for the active and *make* for the passive.

ACTIVE	Simple	Continuous	PASSIVE	Simple	Continuous
Present	he works	we are working	Present	they are made	it is being made
Past	she	I	Past	it	it
Future	they	you	Future	they	
Present Perfect	we	she	Present Perfect	they	
Past Perfect	I	you	Past Perfect	it	
Future Perfect	they will have worked	he will have been working	Future Perfect	they will have been made	

2 **T1.4** Listen to lines from eight conversations and discuss what the contexts might be.



A shop assistant talking to a customer.

3 **T1.4** Listen again and identify the tenses.
Present Continuous Passive and Present Continuous.

Discussing grammar

4 Compare the meaning in the pairs of sentences. Which tenses are used? Why? Discuss your answers with a partner.

- Klaus **comes** from Berlin.
Klaus **is coming** from Berlin.
- What **were** you **doing** when the accident happened?
What **did** you **do** when the accident happened?
- I **ve lived** in Singapore for five years.
I **lived** in Singapore for five years.
- When we arrived, he **tidied** the flat.
When we arrived, he **d tidied** the flat.
- We **ll have** dinner at 8.00, shall we?
Don't call at 8.00. We **ll be having** dinner.
- I **didn't teach** English very well.
I **wasn't taught** English very well.
- How much **are** you **paying** to have the house painted?
How much **are** you **being paid** to paint the house?
- You're very kind. Thank you.
You're **being** very kind. What do you want?

Talking about you

5 Complete these sentences with your ideas.
Then compare with a partner.

- At weekends I often ...
- My parents have never ...
- I don't think I'll ever ...
- I was saying to a friend just the other day that ...
- I hate Mondays because ...
- I'd just arrived home last night when ...
- I was just getting ready to go out this morning when ...
- I've been told that our teacher ...
- In my very first English lesson I was taught ...
- The reason I'm learning English is because ...

T1.5 Listen to the lines in conversations and compare your ideas. What are the responses?

SPOKEN ENGLISH Missing words

Which words are missing in these lines from conversations?

- Heard about Jane and John? Thought not.
- Leaving already? What's wrong?
- Failed again? How many times is that?
- Sorry I'm late. Been waiting long?
- Doing anything interesting this weekend?
- Like the car! When did you get it?
- Bye Jo! See you later.
- Just coming! Hang on!
- Want a lift? Hop in.
- Seen Jim lately?

Read the lines aloud to your partner and think of a suitable response for each one.

T1.6 Listen and compare.

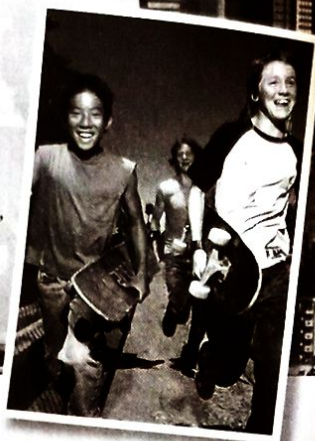
► **WRITING** Informal writing – Correcting mistakes p103

5 Tense review

- 1 Put the verbs into the correct tense, active or passive, positive or negative.

Living abroad

My name is Matt Perry and I'm 14 years old. My family ¹ _____ (move) to Japan from Denver, Colorado three years ago, and we ² _____ (live) in Tokyo for the past two years. At first it was a real culture shock and I ³ _____ (think) I'd never fit in, but now Tokyo feels just like home, and I ⁴ _____ (miss) it when we go back to Denver next year.



Why did we move?

My dad's an officer in the US Air Force and he ⁵ _____ (be/relocate) to work in other countries several times. In the past, Mum and I stayed in Denver, but we ⁶ _____ (not want) to be apart from my dad again, so this time we all moved. We ⁷ _____ (be) here for four years by the time we return home. That's the longest my dad ⁸ _____ (live) anywhere since he was my age.

- 2 Here are the answers to some questions about Matt. Complete the questions.

- 1 How _____ ?
For three years.
- 2 Where _____ ?
Denver, Colorado.
- 3 Why _____ ?
His father was relocated there.
- 4 What _____ ?
He joined a football club.
- 5 What _____ for three years?
Japanese.
- 6 Why _____ ?
Because the characters are confusing.
- 7 What _____ ?
TV and comics.
- 8 When _____ ?
Next year.



What's it like in Japan?

I ⁹ _____ always _____ (think) that Japanese people were quite reserved, but they're really sociable. When we first arrived, I ¹⁰ _____ (join) a football club and I ¹¹ _____ (make) lots of American, English, and Japanese friends. I ¹² _____ (learn) the language for three years now and my Japanese friends say I'm pretty good. But I ¹³ _____ (not like) writing Japanese because I always ¹⁴ _____ (get) confused by the characters.

What do I miss most?

I miss the TV and my comics, though it ¹⁵ _____ (get) better all the time. Soon I ¹⁶ _____ (be able to) buy my favourite American comic here. I also miss basketball, which was my favourite sport before we came to Japan. My mum ¹⁷ _____ (miss) her garden because we ¹⁸ _____ (not live) in a house, but a fourth-floor apartment. Anyway, we ¹⁹ _____ (be) back in Denver next year and I'm sure we ²⁰ _____ all _____ (miss) so many things about Japan.

I know I'm only 14, but I've learned an awful lot about myself from living abroad. I'm going to feel very grown up compared to the other kids when I get home.