

Exercise 9

Write the correct tense (past or past continuous) in place of the verbs in brackets in the following sentences. When you have done so, write similar sentences of your own.

1. Just as we (leave) the house, a friend (come) to see us.
2. When I (hear) the news, I (be) very upset.
3. I (write) a letter when my mother (call) me.
4. When I (be) a boy I often (go) fishing with my uncle.
5. While I (listen) to the news I (repair) my fountain-pen.
6. You (enjoy) Latin when you were at school?
7. I (see) him drive past as I (cross) the road.
8. My sister (work) as a typist before she got married.
9. The train (leave) just as we (arrive) at the station.
10. We (stand) on the corner when we (see) the accident.
11. While I (walk) to the market this morning I (meet) my next-door neighbour.
12. The lights (go) out last night while they (have) a party.
13. When we (be) on holiday we not (swim) because it was so cold.
14. She (play) the piano when the door-bell (ring).
15. The teacher (read) to us when a pupil suddenly (ask) a question.

SEQUENCE OF TENSES (1) When the main verb is in the past, all dependent co-ordinate verbs must also be in the past.

Complete the following sentences by choosing one of the two words given in brackets.

- (a) I went into the room next door and (tell, told) him not to make a noise.
- (b) He told me he (will, would) finish early.
- (c) He telephoned to say he (can, could) not come.
- (d) My aunt said she (may, might) come tomorrow.

Exercise 10

Re-write the following sentences putting the verbs given in brackets in the correct tense. When you have done so, write similar sentences of your own paying special attention to the rule covering the sequence of tenses.

1. He rang me up several times but I (be) out every time he (call).
2. I thought it (rain) today.
3. He asked me if he (can) leave the room.
4. When he (ask) me I told him I never (be) here before.
5. I never thought I (see) you again.
6. He asked me if he (can) help me in any way.
7. I looked for my pen everywhere but (can) not find it.
8. As he (leave) the house he remembered he (forget) his coat.