

EXERCISE 1 – Past Simple or Past Perfect?

1. We (get down) to business as soon as we (introduce)
..... to each other.
2. When Queen Victoria (die) in 1901, she (reign) for
over 60 years.
3. Once they (settle) the agenda, the committee (circulate)
..... it to all members of the society.
4. Nothing (move) in the room until the police (take)
photos.
5. He (refuse) to sign the agreement until after certain points (clear up)
.....
6. We all (realize) what a lucky escape we (have)
7. A friend of mine (return) to his house after a holiday to find it (break into)
.....
8. None of his teachers (understand) how he (manage)
..... to fail the examination.
9. I (write) to the suppliers asking why the goods (not arrive; yet)
..... . They (reply) to say that they (already; sent
(passive))
10. I (call) at the manager's office, but (discover) I
(just; miss) him. He (go out) for lunch.
11. A search party (set out) to look for the two climbers, who (leave)
..... their hotel early that morning and (still; not return)
12. The troops (have) great difficulty in breaking through the defenses,
which (strengthen) considerably during the preceding month.
13. The scientist suddenly (see) the answer to the problem that (occupy)
..... his mind for the last two months.
14. The team (win) the game against a side that (previously; not beat
(passive)) at home that season.
15. The Company (decide) to continue with a design that (stand)
..... the test of time.

EXERCISE 2

Use the past simple tense for one verb in each example and the past perfect for the remaining verb(s).

1. The results last term (be) better than anyone (expect)
2. What (happen) next was just what everyone (fear)
3. We eventually (arrive) at a solution, but not the one we (envisage)
.....
4. Not one person (agree) with him. This was something he (not anticipate)
.....
5. Ten o'clock and the climbers (already; be) near the summit. They
(make) better progress than (ever; dare) to hope for.
6. No one (seem) to know exactly what arrangements (make)
..... for accommodation.
7. The stop-watch (say) three minutes, fifty-eight seconds – he (break)
..... the world record. He (succeed) in doing what
(previously; think) impossible.

8. Now (begin) the exploration of a territory that no European (ever; set) foot on before.
9. The motorist (discover) to his relief that he (not take) the wrong road after all.
10. The Government (find) itself forced to adopt policies it (earlier; reject)

EXERCISE 3

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

When he (see) his wife off at the station, he (return) home as he (not have) to be at the airport till 9.30. He (not have) to pack, for his wife (already; do) that for him and his case (be) ready in the hall. He (not have) to check the doors and windows either, for his wife (always; do) that before she (leave) the house. All he (have) to do (be) to decide whether or not to take his overcoat with him. In the end he (decide) not to. At 8.30 he (pick) up his case, (go) out of the house and (slam) the door behind him. Then he (feel) in his pockets for the key, for his wife (remind) him to double-lock the front door. When he (search) all his pockets and (find) no key, he (remember) where it (be) He (leave) it in his overcoat pocket. Then he (remember) something else; his passport and tickets (be) in his overcoat pocket as well.