

Series Director: Diane Larsen-Freeman

Grammar Dimensions

Form • Meaning • Use

4TH EDITION



Gene Parulis

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VERB TENSES IN WRITTEN AND SPOKEN COMMUNICATION

EXERCISE 1 (Focus 1, page 2)

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

- (1) Five years ago, Raul _____ (arrive) in this country. (2) He _____ (never be) here before. (3) At the moment, he _____ (study) computer science. (4) He _____ (expect) that he _____ (work) as a programmer in another year. (5) "If that job _____ (not work out)," he told me, "I _____ (go) back to school in another field."
- (6) For the past two years, he _____ (live) in a small museum as a caretaker. (7) He _____ (have) a tiny room of his own, but when the museum _____ (close), he _____ (have) the whole place to himself. (8) The only time I _____ (ever be) to a party in a museum _____ (be) when Raul _____ (invite) me a few weeks ago.
- (9) "_____ (ever thought) about returning home?" I asked Raul the other day. (10) "Maybe someday I _____ (go) back," he said, "but only to visit."
- (11) Raul said last week he _____ (speak) briefly to his brother who _____ (try) for months to get a visa. (12) Apparently, his brother _____ (give up).
- (13) This coming January, I _____ (know) Raul for three years.

XERCISE 2 (Focus 1, page 2)

The following passage is from a popular novel, *The Kitchen God's Wife*, by Amy Tan. Cover the original version, which appears below, and then fill in the blanks with the correct verb tenses. After you have done that compare the original with your own work. How do you explain any differences?

And then there is my cousin Bao-bao, whose real name is Roger. Everyone in the family _____
(call) him Bao-bao ever since he _____ (be) a baby, which _____ (be) what *bao-bao*
_____ (mean)—“precious baby.” Later, we _____ (keep) calling him that because he
_____ (be) the crybaby who always _____ (wail) the minute my aunt and uncle
_____ (walk) in the door, claiming we other kids _____ (pick) on him. And even
though he _____ (be) now thirty-one years old, we still _____ (think) of him as
Bao-bao—and we _____ (be) still _____ (pick) on him.

Original

And then there is my cousin Bao-bao, whose real name is Roger. Everyone in the family has been calling him Bao-bao ever since he was a baby, which is what *bao-bao* means—“precious baby.” Later, we kept calling him that because he was the crybaby who always wailed the minute my aunt and uncle walked in the door, claiming we other kids had been picking on him. And even though he’s now thirty-one years old, we still think of him as Bao-bao—and we’re still picking on him.

EXPLANATION OF DIFFERENCES

EXERCISE 3 (Focus 2, page 4)

Complete the following sentences in your own words.

1. When I was younger _____
2. By the year 2020 _____
3. At 3 P.M. yesterday _____
4. Since I last saw Marlon _____
5. At this very moment _____
6. During the reign of Kublai Khan _____
7. In the coming century _____
8. Just a minute ago _____
9. After I graduate _____
10. After the last ice age _____
11. For the past ten years _____
12. In 1066 _____
13. By the time my parents see this report _____
14. This year _____
15. Tomorrow evening _____

EXERCISE 4 (Focus 3, page 6)

Each of the following passages has one sentence with a verb tense that is inappropriate in the context. Identify those sentences and correct them.

1. (a) Earth is the fifth largest planet and the third from the sun. (b) It is the only planet in the solar system known to have water. (c) Its day length, caused by its rotation, is between that of Neptune (16 hours) and that of Mars (24.5 hours). (d) Earth's seasons are caused by its tilt; when the north pole of the planet is pointed toward the sun, it will be summer in the northern hemisphere, and when it points away, it will be winter.
2. (a) The moon is about 250,000 miles from Earth. (b) Its rotation takes exactly the same time as its orbit around the Earth; thus it always shows the same side to the Earth. (c) The moon wasn't solely responsible for raising and lowering the oceans of the Earth, but its pull is 2.2 times greater than that of the sun.
3. (a) Mars is about two-thirds the size of Earth. (b) It has a diameter of about 4200 miles. (c) The surface temperature of this planet varies from -207F to 80F. (d) Two very small moons orbited the planet Mars.

4. (a) Mercury is the second smallest planet in our solar system. (b) Because Mercury is so close to the sun, its year takes only 88 Earth days. (c) However, Mercury rotates much more slowly than Earth, so a day on Mercury will take almost 59 Earth days; therefore, its year is less than two Mercury days long.
5. (a) Predicting the movements of the planets was important to many past cultures, who believed that their fates were related to those of the planets. (b) Today, many cultures still follow the movements of the planets and have paid special attention to their positions on important days such as births, deaths, and anniversaries.
6. (a) The planets retained a special influence over our collective imagination. (b) Countless love poems deal with the moon and the planets—one of which, Venus, is also the name of the goddess of love. (c) And no pair of lovers can fail to appreciate the beauty of a full moon in a clear sky.
7. (a) We were discussing sports the other day. (b) Rob said he loved baseball. (c) Mary said she had always been crazy about soccer. (d) Tim tells us that he played basketball.
8. (a) We were amazed at the number of species we see in Costa Rica: 71 types of birds, plus monkeys, crocodiles, frogs, turtles, butterflies, and plants. (b) It was a wonderful experience that I will never forget.
9. (a) On the cruise you will be able to eat anytime you want. (b) You will have opportunities to explore ancient ports and ruins and listen to lectures by expert guides. (c) You will have enjoyed the trip immensely.
10. (a) A passion for hiking has long kept Czechs on the move—their national hiking club dates from 1888. (b) Partly inspired by the June 1990 issue of *National Geographic* magazine, Czechs and Austrians create the Czech Greenway, a 250-mile network of trails between Vienna and Prague. (c) Traversable by foot, bicycle, horseback, or canoe, the system connects medieval castles and towns with the countryside.

EXERCISE 5 (Focus 4, page 8)

Circle the correct verb forms in the following passages.

1. Today I live in a comfortable house with my family. When we first (a. arrive b. have arrived c. arrived) in this country, we (a. live b. have lived c. lived) in a tiny, dark apartment. I (a. don't see b. haven't seen c. didn't see) that place for several years. I remember that it (a. is b. has been c. was) always cold. I (a. visit b. will visit c. have visited) the old neighborhood next week to see what it looks like these days.
2. I graduate from high school next week. Next year I (a. go b. will go c. will have gone) to community college. I (a. take b. am taking c. will take) some computer classes, I think, but I'm not sure what I (a. do b. am doing c. will do) with the rest of my life! Everything today (a. has b. is having c. will have) to do with computers. My dad says that if I learn how to use one, he (a. buys b. is buying c. will buy) me one.

I used to go to a certain high school, but I (a. have gotten b. get c. was getting) straight Fs. My parents (a. switch b. have switched c. switched) me to another school; I (a. get b. have gotten c. got) As and Bs now. The new school (a. helped b. has helped c. helps) me a lot. In the old school I (a. go b. was going c. have gone) nowhere.

(Adapted from Gordon Mathews, *What Makes Life Worth Living? How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996, p. 111.)

3. My wife is a real support to me. One night I (a. look b. have looked c. looked) at her and at our kids sleeping beside us. She (a. look b. have looked c. looked) so tired from taking care of them—I (a. feel b. have felt c. felt) I couldn't quit my job, however much I hated it. Later I did tell her I (a. want b. have wanted c. wanted) to quit; she said, "Go ahead." When I (a. ask b. have asked c. asked) her how we'd eat, she said we'd go to her parents' farm to live. If we could really do that, it'd be great.

In this country, most husbands don't listen to their wives; they just (a. gave b. give c. have given) orders, so their wives (a. became b. become c. will become) like dolls, deprived of their own feelings. I'm lucky my wife (a. was not b. is not c. have not been) like that.

(Adapted from Gordon Mathews, *What Makes Life Worth Living? How Japanese and Americans Make Sense of Their World*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996, p. 84.)

4. I (a. am writing b. was writing c. have been writing) this column for ten years, and in that time, the number of subscribers to the magazine has more than tripled. Most of today's readers (a. probably never read b. are probably never reading c. have probably never read) the basic information that I (a. have written b. wrote c. write) about ten years ago. It (a. was b. has been c. is) all too easy to forget that the things I do automatically, after decades of photography, may be unknown to someone just starting out. I (a. am also learning b. also learned c. have also learned) many new things in the past ten years that can be shared with new and old readers of my column.

To find wildlife, you must know wildlife, and there is no better way of knowing wildlife than living with it. Raised on a farm in the hills of northwestern New Jersey, I (a. hunt and roam b. have hunted and roamed c. hunted and roamed) the fields and woods around the Delaware River since age 11. Even before that, I read about wildlife, observing it and taking notes, and I still (a. do b. did c. have done) that today.

(Adapted from Leonard Lee Rue III, "Finding Wildlife," *Outdoor Photographer*, June 1996, p. 18.)

5. As you journey through the lush, unspoiled western coast of British Columbia, before long you'll come upon a mystical white apparition—a white bear. Called "Spirit Bear" or "Ghost Bear" by the native Kitasoo who (a. are living b. lived c. have lived) here for thousands of year, this gentle variation of the black bear (a. wasn't b. isn't c. hasn't been) an albino. It (a. got b. gets c. has gotten) its pure white coat from a double recessive gene for white hair.

A Kitasoo legend tells of Raven, the Creator of all life, deciding to turn every tenth bear white to evoke memories of when ice and snow (a. cover b. covered c. has covered) the land. We now (a. knew b. know c. have known) this last ice age (a. ends b. ended c. has ended) 10,000 years ago. And when Raven (a. did b. does c. has done d. had done) his magic, he (a. issued b. issues c. had issued) a proclamation: Moksgm'ol, the white bear, (a. will live b. would live c. is living d. has been living) in this place, in peace, forever.

(Adapted from James Lawrence, "Spirit Bear," *Outdoor Photographer*, June 1996, pp. 40–41.)

(Adapted from James Lawrence, "Ancient America," *Outdoor Photographer*, June 1996, pp. 30-36.)

A student took an exam in a large lecture course with over 300 students. At the end of the period, the professor announced that time was up and the students had to turn in their exams. All the students came to the front and put their exams in a pile, except for one student who remained at his seat for 10 extra minutes furiously filling in answers. When the student came to the front to hand in the exam, the professor told him that his grade would be lowered for taking too much time. Suddenly the student stiffened and indignantly asked the professor, "Do you know who I am?" The surprised professor replied, "No." The student replied, "Good!" and with one quick motion, he lifted the huge pile of papers and placed his in the middle.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. On the left side, there is a vertical margin line, creating a narrow left margin. The paper appears to be from a notebook or a standard ruled sheet of paper.

Four students sharing a dormitory room stayed out late one night and were too tired to get up in time for their early class the next morning. On the way to school, they all agreed on an excuse to tell their professor. They arrived near the end of class and went up to the professor to ask if they could make up the day's quiz. The professor asked them why they were late, and they told him that it was because they had had a flat tire on the way to school. The professor told them to take their seats in separate corners of the room and each take out a sheet of paper for their quiz. He then asked them each to write down which tire was flat.

[illegible]

VERBS

Aspect and Time Frames

EXERCISE 1 (Focus 1, page 14)

Fill in each blank with the simple present, simple future, or simple past form of the verb in parentheses, as appropriate.

1. I once _____ (have) two beautiful Siamese cats.
2. Our office _____ (contact) you first thing in the morning. Don't leave until you hear from us.
3. Chlorophyll _____ (make) leaves green.
4. In those days, we _____ (decorate) eggs for Easter, using many different colors.
5. Come January, we _____ (own) our house outright and no longer be mortgaged to the bank.
6. We _____ (think) we _____ (see) a ghost on the stairway, but it was only the moonlight and a puff of dust from a cracked window.
7. The latest figures _____ (reveal) that the average American family has pizza at least once a week.
8. When I get to college, I _____ (spend) a half hour every day writing in my journal.
9. Buy the new improved Nutri-Milk. Every serving _____ (give) a full day's supply of vitamin C and calcium.
10. I _____ (believe) you only when you present me with incontrovertible proof.

EXERCISE 2 (Focus 1, page 14)

For each sentence, do the following: (1) Identify the tense of the underlined verb. (2) Decide which of the five uses in Focus 1 each verb represents and write the letter from the list below in the blank before the sentence.

- a. Expresses a general idea, relationship, or truth
- b. Describes a habitual action
- c. Describes a mental perception or an emotion
- d. Expresses possession or a personal relationship
- e. Establishes the time frame or a moment of focus

- past, e 1. When I was a child, I loved going to school.
 _____ 2. I had the best teachers in the world.
 _____ 3. I thought Mrs. Casey was absolutely perfect.
 _____ 4. I always sat in the front row.
 _____ 5. Teachers are always larger than life figures for children.
 _____ 6. Mrs. Casey believed that her classes were the best in the school.
 _____ 7. She was very sad at the end of each school year.
 _____ 8. For many years, I visited her classroom every September.

EXERCISE 3 (Focus 2, page 18)

Decide whether a simple tense or a progressive tense is appropriate for each verb in parentheses and fill in the blanks, including any adverbs given.

1. Do you (a) _____ (wonder) how to get into the best companies or how to accelerate your rise to management? Many employers say they (b) _____ (look for) people who (c) _____ (have) an MBA degree in addition to their technical credentials.

Major firms often (d) _____ (look) more closely at technical people with advanced management degrees. Some firms expressly (e) _____ (ask) for upper-level degrees. According to one corporate recruiter, graduate management degree holders (f) _____ (understand) not just how products are made but also how corporations (g) _____ (work).

Stephanie Tran (h) _____ (believe) that her master's degree in information systems has helped her greatly. She (i) _____ (feel) that the degree (j) _____ (give) her a view of how technology is used in business. For example, Stephanie (k) _____ (write, currently) the specifications and instructions for a new system. Her technical knowledge (l) _____ (provide) the detail the documentation needs. Her business knowledge (m) _____ (help) her understand the needs of the workers using the system. She (n) _____ (look, also) to the future for new and efficient technical standards the company might want to adopt.

2. As she and her friends (a) _____ (talk) about the classes they (b) _____ (want) to take next semester, Lin (c) _____ (notice) that Sang (d) _____ (seem) sad.

- she (e) _____ (ask) him what was wrong, he (f) _____ (tell) her that he (g) _____ (have) doubts about next semester. Although he (h) _____ (go) to school full-time last semester, he now (i) _____ (run) his sick father's business, and he rarely (j) _____ (have) enough time to study.
3. Right now Tran (a) _____ (study) English at a community college. She (b) _____ (hope) to transfer to a four-year college and study electrical engineering. She (c) _____ (be) the first in her family to go to college, and so she (d) _____ (feel) a lot of pressure not to fail. However, she (e) _____ (have) very supportive parents, who (f) _____ (do, constantly) everything they can to encourage her. Tran's mother often (g) _____ (mail) her presents from home, and her father (h) _____ (tell, always) her how proud he (i) _____ (be) of her.
4. Kim (a) _____ (have) an RN degree, but she (b) _____ (work) as a waitress until her English (c) _____ (improve) enough for her to pass her nursing exam. Every day Kim (d) _____ (work) from ten in the morning until late at night, sometimes until one or two o'clock. She (e) _____ (be) so tired when she gets home that she just (f) _____ (take) a shower while her dinner (g) _____ (cook), (h) _____ (eat) dinner, and (i) _____ (go) to bed without any time to study. She (j) _____ (realize) that her schedule (k) _____ (take) away her opportunities to improve herself, but she really (l) _____ (need) the money.

EXERCISE 4 (Focus 3, page 21)

Fill in each blank with either a simple or a perfect form of the verb in parentheses. More than one answer may be possible. Be prepared to explain your choices.

- For years, many Americans (1) _____ (believe) that somewhere between the ages of 40 and 60 people (2) _____ (suffer) something called a "midlife crisis." This (3) _____ (be) the feeling that youth (4) _____ (be) permanently behind and only old age (5) _____

lead. The stereotypical response to a midlife crisis (6) _____ (involve) some attempt to regain youth, and indeed, there (7) _____ (be) many newspaper stories about women having plastic surgery and men having affairs with younger women.

Some recent studies, however, (8) _____ (place) doubt on this stereotype, particularly for people who (9) _____ (possess) certain traits. One research group (10) _____ (learn) that people who (11) _____ (be) happiest during their middle age (12) _____ (look) honestly at themselves and (13) _____ (accept) the changes that (14) _____ (come) with age. At middle age, these people (15) _____ (understand) that they (16) _____ (have, not) the same strength or beauty they (17) _____ (have) when they (18) _____ (be) twenty. So instead of relying on their physical qualities, at midlife, these people (19) _____ (learn) to use the skills and wisdom the years (20) _____ (give) them. Often they use these qualities in ways that they (21) _____ (not consider) before. Women especially (22) _____ (tend) to find surprising strengths in themselves at middle age. For example, the writers Kate Chopin and Edith Wharton (23) _____ (not publish) anything before the age of 40.

Studies on relationships at middle age (24) _____ (find) a steady decline of stress in marriages all the way from youth into old age. Researchers (25) _____ (believe) that this (26) _____ (be) at least partly caused by what couples (27) _____ (learn) about each other when they are young. Finally, although in past studies middle-aged adults (28) _____ (score) lower than their younger counterparts on standardized cognitive tests, some researchers now (29) _____ (feel) that middle-aged people may simply see problems in equally intelligent but different ways from the young. Although they may not compute problems as quickly, middle-aged people (30) _____ (collect) more experience to base their solutions on. A young gardener might make a wonderful plan for his garden from the best books available, only to see his older neighbor's plot prosper from his greater knowledge of the weather and soil in that area.

EXERCISE 5 (Focus 3, page 21)

Study the excerpts below and select the correct form from the verb choices in parentheses.

1. (A) My work alone (a. has awarded b. had awarded c. will have awarded) me a top place, and I was going to be one of the first called in the graduating ceremonies. On the classroom blackboard, as well as on the bulletin board in the auditorium, there were blue stars and white stars and red stars. No absences, no tardiness, and my academic work was among the best of the year. (B) My hair pleased me, too. Gradually the black mass (a. has lengthened and thickened b. had lengthened and thickened c. was lengthening and thickening) so that it kept at last to its braided pattern and I didn't have to yank my scalp off when I (a. have tried b. had tried c. tried) to comb it. (C) I hoped the memory of that morning would never leave me. Sunlight was itself young, and the day had none of the insistence maturity would bring it in a few hours. In my robe and barefoot in the backyard, under cover of going to see about my new beans, I gave myself up to the gentle warmth and thanked God that no matter what evil I (a. have done b. had done c. would have done) in my life, he (a. has allowed b. had allowed c. would have allowed) me to live to see this day.

(From Maya Angelou, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. New York: Random House, 1969.)

2. (A) There was, however, one Italian import whose vocabulary (a. has had b. had had c. had) an influence on the language out of all proportion to its significance in the American-Italian community: the Mafia. (B) Now treated as synonymous with organized crime (which it is not), the Mafia (a. has added b. had added c. added) terms like *godfather*, *the family*, and *capo* to the language. (C) Hollywood's love affair with "gangster movies" (a. has ensured b. had ensured c. ensured) a wide dissemination of criminal slang: *hoodlum*, *racketeer*, *rough house*, *hatchet man*, *doing the dirty work*, *hot seat* (originally "the electric chair"), *protection racket* and *loan shark*.

(From Robert McCrum, William Cran, and Robert MacNeil, *The Story of English*, New York: Viking, 1986.)

3. (A) The hallmark of the United States (a. has been b. had been c. was) growth. (B) Americans (a. have typically defined b. had typically defined c. typically defined) this process in quantitative terms. (C) Never (a. has been b. had been c. was) that more true than in the first half of the nineteenth century, when an unparalleled rate of growth took place in three dimensions: population, territory, and economy. In 1850, Zachary Taylor—the last president born before the Constitution—could look back at vast changes during his adult life. (D) The population (a. has doubled b. had doubled c. doubled) and then doubled again. (E) Pushing relentlessly westward and southward, Americans (a. have similarly quadrupled b. had similarly quadrupled c. similarly quadrupled) the size of their country by settling, conquering, annexing, or purchasing territory that (a. has been occupied b. had been occupied c. was occupied) for millennia by Indians and claimed by France, Spain, Britain, and Mexico.

(From James M. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.)

EXERCISE 6 (Focus 3, page 21)

Fill in each blank with either the simple future or the future perfect form of each verb in parentheses.

College students have to compare the value of their degree with the time that is needed to obtain it. A medical student, for example, might say to herself, "When I graduate, I (1) _____ (be) 28 years old and

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