GRAMMAR FOCUS

1.2 Present and past habits

To talk about someone’s habits and typical behaviour, we can use:
• the Present Simple or the Past Simple, to talk about repeated present or past actions or states:
  *When I get home, I do my homework and then practise the violin.*
  *My grandfather picked me up from school every day.*
• used to + infinitive to talk about states (e.g. with the verbs be, have, believe, like) or actions that happened regularly in the past but are no longer happening in the present. We do not use this structure to talk about single past actions:
  *When I was your age, I used to be very eager to learn.*
• the Present Continuous or Past Continuous with the adverb will/would:
  *We will/couldn’t believe it! I can’t believe my eyes.*

Choose the correct options.

1. When Marek and I shared a room in a hall of residence, he was always borrowing / will always borrow my things without asking.
2. When I was a kid, I would believe / used to believe that my dad was a spy.
3. Did you use to like / Would you like your primary school?
4. It’s so annoying! She will always lose / is always losing her notebook.
5. Martha would ask / was asking the teacher plenty of questions after every lesson. She was very curious.
6. I always forget / will forget to bring a pen. Can I borrow one of yours?

1.5 Verb patterns

These are the most common verb patterns:
• verb + to-infinitive, e.g. agree, arrange, can’t afford, decide, intend, learn, manage, offer, prefer, refuse, remember, seem, tend:
  *I decided to leave school and find a job.*
  *My sister agreed to help me with my homework.*
• verb + object + to-infinitive, e.g. advise, allow, cause, enable, encourage, expect, force, remind, urge, warn:
  *Robert’s mother encouraged him to study Law.*
  *The teacher reminded us not to use our mobile phones during lessons.*
• verb + object + infinitive without to, e.g. make, let:
  *Do his parents let him hang out with his friends?* My parents used to make me do a lot of house chores.
• verb + -ing form, e.g. admit, avoid, can’t help, can’t stand, enjoy, fancy, imagine, keep, miss, practise, spend/waste time, stop:
  *I can’t stand wearing a school uniform.* She recently stopped eating fast food, and she feels better already.
• verb + -ing form/to-infinitive:
  *He intends using the school website. He intends to use the school website.*
  *After the verbs begin, continue, hate, intend, like, love, prefer and start we can use both the -ing form and the to-infinitive. The meaning stays the same or changes very slightly:*
    *I started playing chess. I started to play chess.*

Change in meaning

• After the verbs remember, forget, stop and try we can use both the -ing form and the to-infinitive. However, the meaning of the sentence changes:
  *Jenny remembers locking the door. (She remembers that she locked the door)*
  *Jenny remembers to lock the door. (She always remembers to lock the door)*
  *Dad’ll forget giving me the money. (He will forget that he gave me the money.)
  *Dad’ll forget to give me the money. (He hasn’t given me the money and he’ll forget to do it.)*
  *Liz stopped drinking coffee. (Liz doesn’t drink coffee anymore.)*
  *Liz stopped to drink some coffee. (Liz stopped doing something in order to drink coffee.)*
  *I tried turning the computer off and on again, but it didn’t help. (I tried this as an experiment to see if it would work.)*
  *I tried to turn the computer off, but the shutdown command didn’t work. (I made an effort to turn the computer off).*
• We use feel, hear, see, watch + infinitive without to when we want to say that we saw the whole action from beginning to end:
  I watched Mary paint a picture. (I saw Mary start on the painting, paint it and finish painting.)
• We use feel, hear, see, watch + -ing form when we witness only a part of the action:
  I watched Mary painting a picture. (Mary was painting a picture when I saw her.)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first, using the word in capitals. Do not change the word in capitals.

1 You’re looking for volunteers? You could put a poster up in the school. **TRIED**
   Have you _______ a poster in the school?
2 It’s really important that you hand in your assignment on Friday. **REMEMBER**
   You must _______ your assignment on Friday.
3 Would John like to come to the concert on Sunday? **FANCY**
   Does John _______ the concert on Sunday?
4 I told him that dropping Spanish was a bad idea. **ENCOURAGED**
   I _______ Spanish.
5 Those boots are much too expensive for me to buy. **AFFORD**
   I _______ those boots.
6 Jake has been forbidden from using his dad’s computer. **ALLOWED**
   Jake _______ his dad’s computer.
7 Janice doesn’t go to dance class anymore. She quit two weeks ago. **STOPPED**
   Janice _______ two weeks ago.

2.2 Past Perfect Simple and Continuous

**Past Perfect Simple**

We use the Past Perfect Simple:
• to talk about actions that happened before a particular time or event in the past (for which we usually use the Past Simple):
  When I arrived at the wedding reception, the bride’s father had already made his speech.
  By the age of sixteen, he had learnt to speak three foreign languages.
• to talk about states that were true or happening before a particular time in the past:
  When my parents got married, they had known each other for fifteen years.

**Past Perfect Continuous**

We use the Past Perfect Continuous to talk about actions that were in progress up to a particular time in the past (or finished shortly before it):

The guests had been waiting in front of the church for forty minutes before the bus picked them up.

We hadn’t been thinking about selling the house, but then we got this great offer.

**How long had you been watching me before I woke up?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I/You/He/She/It/We/They had been sleeping.</td>
<td>I/You/He/She/It/We/They hadn’t been sleeping.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Yes/No questions</th>
<th>Short answers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Had she/it/we/they been sleeping?</td>
<td>Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they had had. No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they hadn’t.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wh-questions</th>
<th>Subject questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How long had she/it/we/they been sleeping?</td>
<td>Who had been sleeping?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Past Perfect Simple vs Past Perfect Continuous**

• We use the Past Perfect Simple:
  • to talk about finished actions:
    My father had visited his Scottish relatives twice before he finally went to live with them.
  • to talk about states using stative verbs, e.g. be, have, know, see, believe:
    I had never seen such a magnificent church before I visited St Paul’s Cathedral.
• We use the Past Perfect Continuous to talk about actions but not states. We stress the duration of the action rather than the result:
  We had been waiting for three hours when they finally arrived.