ENGLISH

لغة إنجليزية
لغة أولى

Lesson One

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the passage and answer the following questions:

Dana Miller is a bus driver.

She drives a bus in the city of Philadelphia.

She works the night shift. That means she starts work at 10:00 at night and gets off at 6:00 in the morning. In the world of bus driving, this is sometimes called third shift.

Dana has been driving a bus for 15 years. She started when she was 23 years old.

She loves her job most of the time, as she gets to see the beautiful city from her seat.
She also gets to meet all kinds of people.

There is the guitar player. He **lugs** his heavy guitar on the bus every Friday night. He plays at a nightspot downtown.

People call him Get Low. That is because he likes to play the guitar on his knees.

If the bus is not too crowded, Get Low plays in the back of the bus. The bus is seldom crowded at night. He likes to warm up on the bus before shows.

There is the woman who works at the pretzel factory. Each day the "Pretzel Lady" brings Dana a bag of fresh, soft pretzels. They fill the bus with a wonderful smell!

Sometimes Dana's job is hard.

One time, a young woman left her sleeping baby on the bus. There was a note on the baby's blanket asking for help. Dana had to call the police.

Another time, a teenager stole money from Dana on the bus. He had a fake gun. Dana thought it was real. She was very scared.

Occasionally, driving the bus can be scary. But most of the time, driving the bus is great. Dana does not want to work anywhere else.

"How was your night?" Dana's husband likes to ask when she gets home.

"Good music, good food, and a **great view of the city**," she says.

1) Where does Dana drive the bus?
A. around Philadelphia
B. to the police station
C. to pick up guitar players
D. to pick up school children

2) What shift does Dana work?
A. third shift
B. evening shift
C. afternoon shift
D. second shift

3) How old is Dana?
A. 15
B. 23
C. 38
D. 39

4) How long is Dana's shift?
A. 6 hours
B. 8 hours
C. 10 hours
D. 12 hours

5) What does lug mean?
A. to throw
B. to push easily
C. to carry on one's head
D. to carry something that is hard to move around

6) The main reason Get Low rides the bus is because
A. he likes to see the city
B. he enjoys talking to Dana
C. he likes to play guitar there
D. he needs to get to a show

7) As used at the end of the story, which is the best synonym for occasionally?
A. seldom
B. one time
C. frequently
D. usually

8) What great view of the city does Dana have?
A. the view from a tall building
B. the view from a mountain top
C. the view from the sidewalk
D. the view from her bus seat

9) Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE?
A- People call the guitar play Get Low because he likes to play the guitar on his knees (……..)
B- Dana loves her job only because she gets to meet all kinds of people (……)
C- Dana’s husband is loving and caring (……..)
D- Dana’s job is never hard (……)
E- A young woman forgot her baby on the bus (……..)
F- Dana works a morning shift (…….)

GRAMMAR

PRESENT SIMPLE/SIMPLE PRESENT TENSE

The simple present (also called present simple or present indefinite) is a verb tense which is used to show repetition, habit or generalization. Less commonly, the simple present can be used to talk about scheduled actions in the near future and, in some cases, actions happening now. Read on for detailed descriptions, examples, and simple present exercises.

Simple Present Uses

***Repeated Actions**

Use the simple present to express the idea that an action is repeated or usual. The action can be a habit, a hobby, a daily event, a scheduled event or something that often happens. It can also be something a person often forgets or usually does not do.

Examples:

- I play tennis.
- She does not play tennis.
- Does he play tennis?
- The train leaves every morning at 8 AM.
- The train does not leave at 9 AM.
- When does the train usually leave?
- She always forgets her purse.
- He never forgets his wallet.
- Every twelve months, the Earth circles the Sun.
- Does the Sun circle the Earth?

*** Facts or Generalizations**

The simple present can also indicate the speaker believes that a fact was true before, is true now, and will be true in the future. It is not important if the speaker is correct about the fact. It is also used to make generalizations about people or things.

Examples:

- Cats like milk.
- Birds do not like milk.
- Do pigs like milk?
- California is in America.
- California is not in the United Kingdom.
- Windows are made of glass.
- Windows are not made of wood.
- New York is a small city. *It is not important that this fact is untrue, the speaker believes it is small.*

*** Scheduled Events in the Near Future**

Speakers occasionally use simple present to talk about scheduled events in the near future. This is most commonly done when talking about public transportation, but it can be used with other scheduled events as well.

Examples:

- The train leaves tonight at 6 PM.
- The bus does not arrive at 11 AM, it arrives at 11 PM.
- When do we board the plane?
- The party starts at 8 o'clock.
- When does class begin tomorrow?

Forming Simple Present

The simple present is just the base form of the verb. Questions are made with do and negative forms are made with do not.

Statement: You speak English.
Question: Do you speak English?/ Why don't you ever go on vacation?
Negative: You do not speak English.

In **the third person singular**, -s or -es is added. Questions are made with does and negative forms are made with does not.

Statement: He speaks English.
Question: Does he speak English? / How much does the course cost?
Negative: He does not speak English.

Spelling Tip

In the present simple 3rd person singular (he, she, it), add s, es, or ies to the base form of the verb.

- To regular verbs just add an ***s***
E.g. travel →travels, give → gives, play →plays

- To verbs that end in ***s, ss, sh, ch, x,*** and ***o,*** add an ***es***
E.g. wash → washes, mix → mixes, go →goes

- To verbs end in y after a consonant (any letter that isn't a vowel), change the y to ***i*** and add ***es***.
E.g. study > studies, fly > flies

Tag Questions

Tag questions are those short questions that are tagged onto the end of a sentence. They are used just to make sure the person you're talking to understood what you meant or to emphasize what you said.

They're formed either by using a regular sentence in the present simple and adding don't or doesn't and a pronoun (I, you, we, they, he, she, it) and a question mark.

1. John likes me, **doesn't he**?
2. All those girls speak French, **don't they**?

You may also add a positive tag when you're using a negative sentence.

1. Keisha doesn't speak Spanish, **does she**
2. Those boys don't play sports, **do they**?

As a rule: When the sentence is positive, the tag is negative.
When the sentence is negative, the tag is positive.

Triggers

Every day, month, week, year; on Wednesdays/Fridays; always; sometimes; never; frequently; usually, often

PRACTICE

Fill in the correct form of the verb:

1. Every year his family ..... to Europe for two weeks. (go)
2. Tammy and Jen .....a Pilates class on Wednesday mornings.(take)
3. ..... that airline ..... to Paris? (fly)
4. The semester ..... until the end of June. (not finish)
5. Tony usually..... to call his mother in the mornings. (try)
6. .....for your car expenses? (Who/pay)
7. The shops .....until 21:00. (not close)
8. Gerard ..... the ball and ..... it into the net. (receive/kick)
9. .....times a day ..... you ..... your dogs for a walk? (take)
10. .....he always .....his cell phone for long distance calls? (use)
11. The concert..... (start) at 11 o'clock.
12. Tokyo ..... (be) the capital of Japan.
13. Rania..... (not/drink) milk.

ANSWERS AND EXPLAINATIONS OF LESSON ONE

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) A
2) A
3) C
4) B
5) D
6) D
7) A
8) D
9)
A- TRUE
B- FALSE
C- TRUE
D- FALSE
E- FALSE
F- FALSE

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

1. goes
2. take
3. Does/fly
4. doesn’t finish
5. tries
6. Who pays
7. don’t close
8. receives/kicks
9. How many/do/take
10. Does/use
11. starts
12. is
13. does not drink

Lesson Two

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the passage and answer the following questions:

Ana, her husband Mario, and their four-year-old son, Antonio, just moved to North Carolina.

They need a temporary place to call home until they get settled into their new surroundings.

Right now, they are staying in a hotel not far from Mario's job.

Ana begins a search for an apartment for the family to live in.

First, Ana picks up an Apartment Book at the local newspaper stand. The Apartment Book contains listings of all the major apartment complexes in her area.

Ana starts by looking at the prices for apartments in the Apartment Book. Then, she reads about the **amenities** that each apartment complex offers.

For example, some apartments have a clubhouse. Some have a gym, which is also called a fitness center. Some have a pool. Some have all of these!

Ana notices that the more amenities an apartment complex has, the more it costs each month. She wants the family's new apartment to be nice, but she does not want to spend too much money on it. Ana and Mario are trying to save money to buy a house.

After **considering** prices, amenities, and locations, Ana finds several apartment complexes that she thinks the family will like.

Ana calls the apartment complexes. She sets up appointments with the apartment managers to see the apartments she thinks are interesting.

Ana makes five phone calls in total.

When Mario gets back to the hotel from work, Ana shows him the list of apartments. "These look good," he says.

The next day, while Mario is at work and Antonio is at daycare, Ana visits the apartment complexes.

She likes the fifth one the best. It is in a good school district. It has a pool, but no fitness center or clubhouse. It is near Mario's job. Ana hopes to find a job nearby as well.

When Ana gets back to the hotel, she discusses all that she has seen with Mario. They decide to rent the last apartment Ana saw.

The next day, Ana calls the manager of the apartment complex with the news.

The manager asks Ana and Mario to sign a lease and pay a **security deposit.**

If the family damages the apartment in any way while they are living there, the security deposit will help to pay for the cost of repairs.

Ana and Mario sign a lease and pay the money. The manager asks them when they plan to move in and Ana looks up at Mario. He looks back at her for a moment and then tells the manager, "In a few days."

Finally, they have a place to stay.

****

1) What kind of book does Ana get?
A. a City Guide Book
B. a Map Book
C. a House Book
D. an Apartment Book

2) In the light of the passage, the synonym of "amenities" is……..
A. demerits
B. facilities and services
C. flaws

3) What did Ana consider while looking through the Apartment Book?
I. school districts
II. amenities
III. locations

A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III

4) Where is Ana's family staying while they look for a place to call home?
A. in an apartment close to Mario's work
B. at an apartment next to Antonio's school
C. in Ana's mother's house
D. in a hotel near Mario's work

5) What does Ana realize as she looks through the Apartment Book?
A. that the nicest apartments are far away
B. that all the apartments are small and cramped
C. that it is easy to find a nice apartment in a good school district
D. that the number of amenities is related to cost

6) Why doesn't Ana want to spend too much money on an apartment?
A. Her husband will get upset.
B. She does not have the money.
C. She cannot find one she likes.
D. She wants to save money for a house.

7) As described in the beginning of the story, which of the following is not regarded as an amenity?
A. carpet
B. clubhouse
C. fitness center
D. pool

8) Where is Antonio while Ana looks at apartments?
A. at daycare
B. at the hotel
C. at school
D. at work

9) As described in the middle of the story, what does it mean to "consider" something?
A. to rent it
B. to think about it
C. to make it happen
D. to read a book about it

10) As used at the end of the story, which is the best description of a security deposit?
A. money given to landlord to pay for amenities
B. money given to landlord to pay for utilities and telephone
C. money given to landlord to prove the tenant can pay rent on time
D. money given to the landlord to pay for any damage to the apartment

GRAMMAR

PAST SIMPLE/SIMPLE PAST TENSE

We use the past simple to describe an action that started in the past and ended in the past. It could be something that happened twenty years ago or something that happened two minutes ago. It started. It stopped. It's over.

Examples:

- I visited a client in London yesterday.
- She planned the event all by herself

Forming the Past Simple

Subject	Verb + d, ed, ied or irregular form (V2)	Rest of Sentence
I / He / She / It You / We / They	walked	to the shop yesterday
	slept	late last Saturday

The past simple is usually formed by adding ***d, ed,*** or ***ied*** to the base form of the verb, however, in English there are many irregular verbs that take on a completely different form in the past tense.

Some people call this the V2 form of the verb. The best thing to do is to try and memorize them.

Negative

Subject	**didn't + verb in the base form**	**Rest of Sentence**
I / He / She / It You / We / They	didn't walk	to the shop yesterday
	didn't sleep	late last Saturday

Questions

Auxiliary Verb	Subject	verb in base form	rest of sentence
Did	I / you / we / they	walk	to the shop yesterday
	he / she / it	sleep	late last Saturday

Wh-word	auxiliary verb	subject	verb in base form	rest of sentence
What	did	I / you / we / they	sell	the house
Why	didn't	he / she / it	rescue	me

Tag Questions

They're formed either by using a positive sentence in the past simple and then adding didn't, a pronoun (I, you, we, they, he, she, it) and a question mark.

1. John scored a goal, **didn't he**?
2. Their dogs barked all night, **didn't they**?

You may also add a positive tag when you're using a negative sentence.

1. Kate didn't take out the rubbish bin, **did she**?
2. The girls didn't copy on the exam, **did they**?

Spelling Tips

Regular verbs in the past simple

- Add ed to most verbs. Ex. talk → talked , employ→ employed

- If a short verb ends with a consonant-vowel-consonant, double the last letter and then add ed. E.g. stop → stopped, top → topped

However, do not double the last letter if the verb ends in ***w, x*** or ***y.*** E.g. play → played, mix → mixed.

- In longer words, if the last syllable of the verb ends with a consonant-vowel-consonant and that syllable is stressed, double the last consonant and then add ***ed.***

E.g. prefer → preferred

However, do not double the last letter if the first syllable is stressed.
E.g. enter→entered

-If the verb ends in e, just add ***d.***
E.g. create → created , live → lived

-If the verb ends in a consonant + ***y***, change the ***y*** to ***i*** and add ***ed***.
Ex. try → tried

Triggers

The most common time expressions used for the past simple are: yesterday, a week (month, year) ago, last (month, year, weekend, Monday) night, the day before yesterday, two days (months, years) ago.

The time expression appears either at the beginning or at the end of the sentence – never in the middle of the sentence.

PRACTICE

Fill in the correct form of the verb:

1. I .....a great book last week. (read)
2. .....Adam .....the jacket that he ..... at the party? (find / leave)
3. Why..... you.....for me at the bar yesterday evening? (not wait)
4. I ..... for over an hour, but you never .....up! (wait / show)
5. My friends..... to New Delhi via Mumbai a week ago. (fly)
6. Teresa .....the last train, ...? (catch)
7. The sunset ..... beautiful last night. (be)
8. .....they..... the client's deadline yesterday? (meet)
9. When ..... he .....from med school? (graduate)
10. Ella..... to get a hold of you, but you ..... home. (try/not be)

ANSWERS AND EXPLAINATIONS OF LESSON TWO

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) D
2) B
3) C
4) D
5) D
6) D
7) A
8) A
9) B
10) D

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

1. read
2. Did/find/left
3. didn't/wait
4. waited/showed
5. flew
6. caught/ didn't she
7. was
8. Did/meet
9. did/graduate
10. tried/weren't

Lesson Three

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the passage and answer the following questions:

Loren had been **surreptitiously** moving money from the accounts of his bank's wealthiest clients to one he created for himself in the Cayman Islands for over 8 years. He had every reason to believe that no one suspected a thing, and he knew the money would be safe in an offshore account.

He had been prudent with all the money he had embezzled from Signet Bank. He wore secondhand suits to his job as a bank teller there. He rode his bike from Anacostia— the squalid, blighted neighborhood he called home— to his Dupont Circle branch each day.

He rarely traveled outside of the Washington, DC area. He did nothing at all to **raise a red flag**. He appeared as nothing more than an 18-dollar-an-hour bank employee in a town where many made millions.

No one, he was sure, had ever scrutinized the **myriad** of transactions that had taken place – dozens, sometimes hundreds of small transfers that amounted to $9,000 every other week. Otherwise, the truth would have surely come to light a long time ago.

"Nine thousand dollars every other week is just a **drop in the bucket** to these rich folks," Loren reasoned. This assuaged his guilt.

In Loren's mind, it was the greedy people who got caught doing these things. It was the **ostentatious** ones, too. It was the guys who built multi-million dollar homes with 24 rooms on a pauper's salary.

To him, the bank was **fraught** with idiots; no-one was capable of unraveling his master plan. No – it was too late for them.

Today was the day Loren would begin reaping the benefits of all his patience and cunning and begin living in blissful obscurity.

After an ordinary day at work, Loren got on his bike and road over the river to National Airport.

As the plane lifted off the runway for the Caribbean, Loren watched intently out the window. He had close to $2 million collecting interest in the bank and had managed to pull it off, unnoticed.

As the plane landed, Loren finally allowed himself to fully dream of the carefree life he was about to begin. He moved down the airplane steps, across the tarmac and headed toward the airport. The balmy air felt comforting to his skin.

He breathed in slowly and deeply with anticipation, and then he was surprised to hear a familiar voice.

“Hey, Loren. Not so fast.”

****

1) As used in paragraph 1, which is the best synonym for “surreptitiously”?
A. easily
B. carefully
C. overtly
D. secretly

2) "He had been prudent with all the money he had embezzled from Signet Bank."
Which of the following is the best way to rewrite the above sentence from paragraph 2 while keeping its original meaning as used in the story?

A. He had been showy with the funds he had taken from Signet Bank.
B. He had saved all the money he had deposited into Signet Bank.
C. He had felt guilty about all the money he had taken from Signet Bank.
D. He had been discreet with all the money he had stolen from Signet Bank.

3) What were some of the things Loren did to not raise suspicion?
I. He wore secondhand suits.
II. He rode a bicycle to work.
III. He only made a certain number of transactions per week.

A. I only
B. I and II
C. I and III
D. I, II, and III

4) The expression "to raise a red flag" (Paragraph 3) means to……..
A. be guilty
B. appear impoverished
C. seem very smart
D. give a warning signal

5) What made Loren feel confident his crime would go undetected?
I. The stolen money was being held in the Cayman Islands.
II. He felt no one would suspect a bank teller of fraud.
III. He had done nothing to show that he had become wealthy.

A. I only
B. I and II
C. I and III
D. I, II, and III

6) If Loren carried out his scheme for exactly 8 years, how much money would he have stolen?
A. $9000
B. $2,000,000

C. $72,000
D. $1,872,000

7) As used in paragraph 4, which is the best synonym for “myriad”?
A. overflow
B. number
C. multitude
D. shortage

8) What kind of expression is "drop in the bucket" (Paragraph 5)?
A. demonstrative, characterized by the open expression of emotion
B. idiomatic, characterized by the use of figurative, not literal, language
C. sarcastic, characterized by the use of harsh or bitter derision, or irony
D. understatement, characterized by an expression that is weaker than the facts would bear out

9) Loren's attitude toward his bank colleagues was…….
A. benevolent
B. disdainful
C. accepting
D. fearful

10) As used in paragraph 6, which is the best antonym for “ostentatious”?
A. lavish
B. conspicuous
C. childish
D. modest

11) As used in paragraph 7, what does the phrase “fraught with” mean?
A. filled with
B. short on
C. lead by
D. visited by

12) Is Loren caught at the end of the story? If yes, what is the proof?
……
……
……
……
……

GRAMMAR

PRESENT CONTINOUS/PROGRSSIVE TENSE

The present progressive tense is used in the following contexts:

*** To describe an incomplete action which is in progress at the moment of speaking; usually with time expressions such as: now, at the moment, right now.**

E.g. (During a phone call or in an e-mail) We **are** discus**sing** the project at the moment.

*** To describe a plan or arrangement in the near future; usually with time expressions such as: tonight, tomorrow, this week, this Monday.**

E.g. Jim'**s** leav**ing** for Brussels this evening.

*** To express actions that are repeated regularly; usually with a negative meaning and with the time expressions: always or forever.**

E.g. Her husband **is** always complain**ing** about his health.

Note: A common mistake is using this form to describe what a company sells or produces. In general, a company sells something on a regular basis, so you need to use the present simple tense and not the present progressive.

-Incorrect: We are producing high-end plastic pipes.
-Correct: We produce high-end plastic pipes.
-Correct: That company is always selling some cheap gadget. (Negative Meaning)

Forming the Present Progressive

The present progressive is formed using am, is or are together with the ing (present participle) form of the verb.

Subject	A form of be + Verb+ing (Present Participle)	Rest of Sentence
I	am taking	my final exam tomorrow
He / She / It	is sweeping	the floor at the moment
You / We / They	are giving	me a headache

Spelling Tip

- Add ing to most verbs.
E.g. play →play**ing**, cry→cry**ing**, bark→ bark**ing**

- For verbs that end in ***e***, remove the ***e*** and add ***ing***.
E.g: slide > slid**ing**, ride > rid**ing**

-For verbs that end in ***ie***, change the ***ie*** to ***y*** and add ***ing***.
E.g. die → dy**ing**, tie → ty**ing**

- For a verb whose last syllable is written with a consonant-vowel-consonant and is stressed, double the last letter before adding ing.
E.g. beg → beg**ging**, begin → begin**ning**. However: enter → enter**ing** (last syllable is not stressed)

Negative

The negative in the present progressive tense is created using am not, is not or are not together with the ing form (present participle) of the verb.

Subject	A form of be + Verb+ing	Rest of Sentence
I	am not working	on that project now
He / She / It	isn't sleeping	at the moment
You / We / They	aren't running	in the marathon tomorrow

Note: In general, use these contractions in the negative: isn't, aren't. Am not cannot be shortened, but you can say **I'm not**. Save the long forms for when you want to create emphasis.

Questions

To ask a question that will be answered with either a yes or no, start with Am, Is or Are, then choose your subject (the person or thing doing the action), followed by the ***ing*** (present participle) form of the verb and then the rest of your question.

A Form of be	Subject	Verb+ing	Rest of Sentence
Am	I	making	myself clear
Is	he / she / it	shaking	right now

A Form of be	Subject	Verb+ing	Rest of Sentence
Are	you / we / they	buying	steaks for dinner tomorrow

To create a wh-question, start with the wh-word, then add am, is or are, then the subject (a person or thing that is doing the action), followed by the ***ing*** (present participle) form of the verb and only then add the rest of the sentence.

Wh-Word	A form of be	Subject	Verb+ing	Rest of Sentence
Who	am	I	meeting	with today
What	is	he / she / it	doing	right now
When	are	you / we / they	choosing	the colors for the room

Tag Questions

They're formed by using a positive sentence in the present progressive and adding isn't or aren't and a pronoun (I, you, we, they, he, she, it) and a question mark. For sentences in the first person (I), use the tag **aren't I**?

1. Terry **is** driving to the post office, **isn't she**?
2. All the kids in the class **are** going on the field trip, **aren't they**?
3. I**'m** buying tickets for everyone, **aren't I**?

You may also add a positive tag when you're using a negative sentence.

1. Latika**'s not** working at IBM anymore, **is she**?
2. Tomer and Guy **aren't** going on the trek to South America, **are they**?

Triggers

"Now", "at the moment", "this week" and "for the time being" and the words "Look!" and "Listen!" Look!

PRACTICE

Fill in the correct form of the Present Progressive:

1. The team members .....late to finish the bid. (stay)
2. What .....Arnie ..... over there? (do)

3. ..... you..... a big wedding? (plan)
4. Tim is helping you put the lights up, ...?
5. The computers ..... finally..... like they're supposed to. (run)
6. ..... Ann ..... in from New York tonight? (fly)
7. The customers aren't getting the price quote this week, ...?
8. I.....Peter for a drink later. (meet)
9. How much money ..... they..... in the company?(invest)
10. He _____ to you. (not lie) He _____ the truth. (tell)

ANSWERS AND EXPLAINATIONS OF LESSON THREE

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) D
2) D
3) B
4) D
5) C
6) D
7) C
8) B
9) B
10) D
11) A
12) Yes, Loren is caught and this is clear in the story's last sentence.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

1. are staying
2. is/doing
3. Are/planning
4. isn't he
5. are/running
6. Is/flying
7. are they
8. am meeting
9. are/investing
10. isn't lying/is telling

Lesson Four

READING COMPREHENSION

Read the passage and answer the following questions:

Dear Editor,

I have just learned that our town's public art museum will eliminate Saturday hours next month due to a **protracted** budget shortfall. Although the continued shortfall necessitates some cuts in town programs or services, Saturday museum hours are simply too important to lose.

It will be a severe hardship and loss to our town's citizens if the museum closes on Saturdays. For many working people like myself, Saturday is the only day of the week we have to take advantage of the breathtaking and thought-provoking artwork our museum has to offer.

Parents often use this day to take their children to the museum in order to expose them to this important bit of culture.

The public museum has been a **boon** to this town since it opened in 1975. It has fostered an interest in the arts, increased cultural awareness, and had a positive impact on the local economy. Even people from many nearby towns choose Saturday—a day free from obligation—to come and see artwork here.

This is no **frivolous** matter; efforts made in this direction would be well spent. The increase of—for all intents and purposes—a nearly inconsequential amount to the homeowner tax bill would suffice to keep the museum open. **Isn't our museum worth *it*?** I beseech everyone who values our museum to contact his or her town representative and ask for funding to keep the Saturday museum hours intact.

Sincerely,

Maria B. Williams

****

1) Which best describes the tone of author of this letter?
A. insensitive
B. genuine
C. hostile
D. rude

2) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best antonym for protracted?
A. curable
B. imagined

C. ridiculous
D. shortened

3) To whom might this letter be addressed?
I. the townspeople
II. a local newspaper
III. federal government officials

A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III

4) As used in paragraph 6, which is the best antonym for "boon"?
A. bore
B. curse
C. boost
D. technicality

5) How might this type of writing best be described?
A. comparative, meaning demonstrates the similarities and differences between two topics
B. instructive, meaning it teaches how to do something
C. persuasive, meaning it aims to change one's feelings about something
D. narrative, meaning it tells a story via a sequence of events

6) As used at the end of the letter, which is the best antonym for "frivolous"?
A. complex
B. passionate
C. ridiculous
D. worthwhile

7) At the end of the letter Maria asks, "Isn't our museum worth *it*?"
What does "*it*" in the above sentence refer to?
A. the townspeople contacting their town representatives
B. staying open on Saturdays
C. an increase in homeowners' tax bills
D. lengthening the budget shortfall

8) Which of the following arguments does Maria make to keep the museum open on Saturdays?
I. Some people can only visit the museum on Saturdays.
II. Parents take their children to the museum on Saturdays.
III. It wouldn't cost much more to individuals to keep the museum open on Saturdays.

A. I only
B. I and II
C. II and III
D. I, II, and III

GRAMMAR

PAST CONTINOUS/PROGRESSIVE TENSE

The past progressive describes an action that was in progress at a specific time in the past. It can be used:

***To describe an action that started in the past and was interrupted by another action:**

1. He **was** writ**ing** an e-mail when the phone rang.
2. When the phone rang, he **was** writ**ing** an e-mail.
3. While he **was** writ**ing** an e-mail, the phone rang

***To describe two actions that were in progress at the same time in the past:**

1. I was preparing dinner while Melanie was working upstairs.
2. While Melanie was working upstairs, I was preparing dinner

Note: The word order in the sentence can be switched around as in the examples above, however, it is important to remember that we use the time expression while before the past progressive and the word when before the past simple part of the sentence. Use only one of these time expressions in each sentence.

Forming the Past Progressive:

The past progressive is formed using was or were and the ***ing*** (present participle) form of the verb.

Subject	a form of be + verb+ing	rest of sentence
I / He / She / It	was finishing	the exam when the bell rang
You / We / They	were paying	the bill while I was waiting to be seated

Spelling Tip

Verb+ing (Present Participle)

- Add ***ing*** to most verbs.
E.g. play→ playing, cry → crying, bark → barking

- For verbs that end in ***e***, remove the ***e*** and add ***ing.***
E.g. slide →sliding, ride→riding

- For verbs that end in ***ie***, change the ***ie*** to ***y*** and add ***ing***.
E.g. die → dying, tie → tying
- For a verb whose last syllable is written with a consonant-vowel-consonant and is stressed, double the last letter before adding ***ing.***
E.g. beg→begging, begin → beginning. However: enter→entering (last syllable is not stressed)

Negative

The negative in the past progressive tense is created using was not or were not + the ing (present participle) form of the verb.

Note: In general, use these contractions in the negative: wasn't, weren't. Save the long forms for when you want to create emphasis.

Subject	a form of be + verb+ing	rest of sentence
I /He / She / It	wasn't crying	when you came home
You / We / They	weren't hiking	there when the earthquake hit

Questions

A form of (be)	subject	verb+ing	rest of sentence
Was	I	walking	too fast
Was	he / she / it	shouting	while you were trying to sleep
Were	you / we / they	waiting	for her when the plane landed

Wh-Word	a form of be	subject	verb+ing	rest of sentence
Who	was	I	talking	to
What	was	he / she / it	doing	
When	were	you / we / they	planning	on telling me the bad news

Tag Questions

They're formed by using a positive sentence in the past progressive and adding wasn't or weren't and a pronoun (I, you, we, they, he, she, it) and a question mark.

1. I was snoring last night, **wasn't I**?
2. They were all rushing for the exit, **weren't they**?

3. When Mr. Thomas called, David was solving crossword puzzles, **wasn't he**?

You may also add a positive tag when you're using a negative sentence.

1. Jennifer wasn't trying very hard, **was she**?
2. The trains weren't running on schedule yesterday, **were they**?

Triggers

Two common signal words for the past continuous are, **when** and **while**.

PRACTICE

Fill in the correct form of the verb in Past Progressive or Past Simple:

1. What .....the manager .....at 7:00 pm yesterday? (do)
2. Tina and Shelly ..... to the hotel when it .....to rain. (walk/start)
3. When Donny ..... the room, everyone ..... . (enter/talk)
4. I..... in the sales department when I first ..... Sofie. (work/meet)
5. My brother .....the computer while I .....for my trip. (use/pack)
6. .....you ..... attention when the teacher ..... your name? (pay/call)
7. We .....TV when the lightning ..... . (watch/ strike)
8. She ..... about me behind my back, wasn't she? (whisper)
9. ..... the client really.....out while Troy..... the proposal? (walk / present)
10. This morning, while I ..... breakfast, someone..... on the door. (eat /knock)

ANSWERS AND EXPLAINATIONS OF LESSON FOUR

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1) B
2) D
3) B
4) B
5) C
6) D
7) C
8) D

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

1. was/doing
2. were walking/started
3. entered/was talking
4. was working/met
5. was using/was packing
6. Were/paying/called
7. were watching/struck
8. was whispering
9. Did/walk/was presenting
10. was eating/knocked

SOURCES

Comprehension.html-https://englishforeveryone.org/Topics/Reading
/https://www.gingersoftware.com