

What matters

1A

LANGUAGE

GRAMMAR: The present: simple, continuous and perfect aspects

- 1 Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

waters is watering 's watered
's been watering collect 'm collecting
've collected 've been collecting

- Her shoes are muddy as she _____ the plants in her garden.
- I _____ stamps since I was a child.
- My parents _____ antique china.
- Mum's outside at the moment. I think she _____ her roses.
- My neighbour always _____ my houseplants when I go on holiday.
- Dan's getting married next month. I _____ money for a present for him.
- We're asking people to donate money for the earthquake victims. We _____ over £200 already.
- Niall _____ our vegetables a couple of times in the past.

- 2 Complete the conversation with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Marta Hi, Julia. Who was that on the phone?

Julia It was Matt. I ¹_____ (try) to persuade him to come on holiday with us.

Marta Has he agreed yet?

Julia No. The problem is that he's in a band and they ²_____ (play) a lot of gigs at the moment. You know how much he ³_____ (love) his music.

Marta Yes, but I really ⁴_____ (think) he needs a rest. They ⁵_____ (do) at least fifteen shows in the last month and he looks completely exhausted.

Julia Yes, and he ⁶_____ (study) for his accountancy exams since January as well.

Marta Yes, that's true. Also, things ⁷_____ (be) very busy at his work recently.

Julia Yes, I know. It's all too much, isn't it? I must admit that I ⁸_____ (get) a bit worried about him.

VOCABULARY: Attitudes and emotions

- 3 Complete the phrases with the words in the box.


bright into ball envy moon kept
threw carried come earth

- I was over the _____ when I learned I'd got the job.
- I think Mum got a bit _____ away with the party decorations – there are balloons everywhere!
- He was green with _____ when he saw my new phone.
- The interview was very stressful, but he _____ his cool and made a very good impression.
- I didn't get _____ horse-riding until I was 35.
- I know you're sad about leaving college, but look on the _____ side – you won't have to worry about exams again.
- Even though Jamie didn't know anyone at the party, he _____ himself into the celebrations enthusiastically.
- She may be an international star, but she's still very down to _____ and does all her own shopping and housework.
- He can _____ across as rude, but really he's just shy.
- You need to be on the _____ in this business – things can change very quickly.

- 4 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- We were *astonished* / *conscientious* / *disgusted* to discover that the building was over 500 years old.
- When I learned that she had stolen the old woman's money, I was absolutely *sarcastic* / *open-minded* / *disgusted*.
- My parents have very traditional attitudes to family life. I wish they could be a bit more *courageous* / *thankful* / *open-minded*.
- It was chilly in the evening, and I was *thankful* / *astonished* / *disgusted* for my jacket.
- She said the food was really great, but I think she was being *conscientious* / *sarcastic* / *disgusted*.
- He made the *thankful* / *courageous* / *sarcastic* decision to give evidence at the trial of his former friend.
- Their *open-minded* / *conscientious* / *thankful* work led them to discover the company's illegal dealings.

PRONUNCIATION: /s/ and /z/

- 5  1.1 Read the sentences. Is the s in **bold** pronounced with an /s/ or a /z/ sound? Circle the correct sound, then listen and check.

- Kate's mountain bike cost £500! /s/ /z/
- It's difficult to see the stage from here. /s/ /z/
- He's asked me to have dinner with him. /s/ /z/
- Auntie Jane's been showing me her holiday photos. /s/ /z/
- Philip's done all the washing-up. /s/ /z/

READING: Dealing with non-literal language



Life lessons: *Alice Greendale*

Alice Greendale is one of the most in-demand actresses working at the moment. Known for her sharp intelligence, on-screen presence, and her ability to get inside the skin of the characters she plays, it is hard to believe that she was once a shy teenager, whose self-esteem was so low that her drama teacher had to practically force her to take part in school plays.

What would you tell your 16-year-old self?

Believe in yourself! In those days I was eaten up with self-doubt. I used to feel sick every week before drama lessons because I was desperate to do well and yet my confidence was non-existent. I always knew I wanted to act, but it felt like a ridiculous dream for someone like me. If I'd known that one day I'd be standing on the Hollywood red carpet, it would have made such a difference!

What's the worst thing anyone's ever said to you?

'You're not beautiful enough to play Juliet.' At the time, that was a real slap in the face, but I can laugh about it now. Failing to meet the beauty standards of a classic heroine has actually opened many doors for me. I've been so lucky with the range and variety of parts I've been offered.

When were you happiest?

On the set of *Time Zone*. For a start, we were filming in Kenya, which is such a spectacular country. But, more importantly, there was one cameraman who was particularly easy on the eye. Every evening we'd sit together to watch those intense sunsets and it was inevitable that we would fall in love. We tied the knot the following year and will celebrate our fifth wedding anniversary in June!

What's the most important lesson life has taught you?

To be myself. When I was younger, I was always putting on an act, and not just when I was working! For instance, I would dress for other people rather than wearing what I was comfortable in, or pretend to hold views that weren't mine just to avoid causing offence. But it was only when I gained the confidence to show people the genuine me that my career really got off the ground.

1 Tick (✓) the sentences that are true.

- 1 Alice Greendale was reluctant to take part in her school plays. _____
- 2 She was always sure that she would become a successful actor. _____
- 3 She still finds it hurtful that someone said she wasn't very beautiful. _____
- 4 She has always played the same type of role. _____
- 5 The happiest time of her life was while she was making a film. _____
- 6 She didn't expect to fall in love while she was filming *Time Zone*. _____
- 7 When she was younger, other people used to tell her what to wear. _____
- 8 At that time, she was careful not to upset people with her opinions. _____

2 Look at the underlined phrases in the text. Choose the best ending for the definitions.

- 1 If you 'get inside someone's skin', you
 - a do a lot of research on them.
 - b understand their personality very well.
 - c look a lot like them.
- 2 If a feeling 'eats you up', it
 - a makes you feel very upset.
 - b makes you physically unable to do anything.
 - c makes you lose a lot of weight.
- 3 Something that is a 'slap in the face' makes you feel
 - a extremely angry.
 - b shocked and upset.
 - c very unconfident.
- 4 If something 'opens doors for you', it
 - a makes your life easier.
 - b forces you to change your plans.
 - c give you opportunities.
- 5 If a person is 'easy on the eye', he/she
 - a is easy to see in a crowd of people.
 - b is good at noticing things.
 - c is physically attractive.
- 6 If you 'tie the knot', you
 - a get married.
 - b start to live with someone.
 - c get to know someone very well.
- 7 If you 'put on an act', you
 - a try to entertain people around you.
 - b tell lies.
 - c behave in a false way.
- 8 If something 'gets off the ground', it
 - a becomes easier to do.
 - b starts to be successful.
 - c starts to become more enjoyable.

3 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 When I was little, my dad was *always reading / would read* me a bedtime story.
- 2 My sister *used to / would* live in Colorado.
- 3 We *attended / were always attending* a local comprehensive school.
- 4 In those days, we *used to / would* know everyone in the village.
- 5 We *would move / were always moving* house because my parents were in the army.
- 6 My grandparents *would have / had* a house near a lake.

GRAMMAR: adding emphasis (1): cleft sentences

- 1 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.
- ___ I object to most is the cost of the tickets.
a The person b The main thing
c What
 - ___ the younger pupils who cause the most trouble.
a It's b They're
c The main thing is
 - ___ we argue about is whose turn it is to do the housework.
a It's what b The reason why
c The main thing
 - ___ he wants is to have a chance to apologize.
a The reason that b All that
c It's what
 - ___ influenced me most was my grandmother.
a What b The person who
c The only thing that
 - ___ Lena who told me about the hidden room.
a It was b What
c It's
 - ___ I chose this university was because of the sports facilities.
a It was why b The place
c The reason
 - ___ really surprised me was how charming she was.
a What b The only thing
c It was

- 2 Are these sentences correct or incorrect? Cross out any mistakes and write the correct words at the end of the sentences.

- The only thing what he ever gave me was this ring. _____
- It's the staff who make this such a great place to work. _____
- The main that worries me is whether we'll have enough water. _____
- What she really likes is the Italian paintings in the other gallery. _____
- The place I love most is a small bay near my uncle's house. _____
- The reason why he's upset is that his wife is ill. _____
- They're our children who are the future. _____
- It's I find fascinating is the way the artist paints the sky. _____

VOCABULARY: Abstract nouns

- 3 Complete the text with the abstract nouns in the box. There are two that you don't need.


selfishness hatred tolerance sensitivity patience
reliability freedom inconvenience friendship generosity

I met Laura when I started working at the restaurant where she was a chef. She was funny and kind, and we soon developed a close ¹_____. At the time, I was having trouble with my flatmate, who kept leaving the place in a mess even though she knew I liked it to be tidy. I was increasingly fed up with her ²_____ and my ³_____ was running out. It got to the point where it was really getting me down. With her usual ⁴_____, Laura asked me what was wrong. When I told her, she immediately offered me her spare room. I was amazed by her ⁵_____, and I know it caused her considerable ⁶_____ because she had to move a lot of her stuff out of there to make room for me. It was meant to be a temporary arrangement, but we get on so well that it's turning into a long-term one. We agree on pretty much everything – including our ⁷_____ of mess! In addition, the rent I pay gives her the ⁸_____ to travel, which she loves.

- 4 Complete the words.

- The talk seemed to go on for hours and none of it was relevant to me. I thought I would die of b_____!
- There are three salespeople in our team and we have a great working r_____.
- She felt a great sense of p_____ when she heard how brave her son had been.
- This job involves dealing with a lot of cash, so we need to be absolutely sure of the candidate's h_____.
- The company I work for pays for my gym m_____.
- Jake helped me a lot when I was ill, and I'm very grateful for his k_____.
- She stood by me when everyone else was against me. Her l_____ was amazing.
- Even as a child, she was always asking questions, and it was that c_____ that made her a great scientist.
- My brother is so annoying. He shows absolutely no a_____ of other people's needs and feelings.
- He hired a new manager and his subsequent success has demonstrated the w_____ of that decision.

PRONUNCIATION: Intonation in cleft sentences

- 5  1.2 Listen to the sentences. Underline the word that is stressed the most and pay attention to the falling intonation towards the end of the cleft clause.

- It's their rudeness that makes me really angry.
- It was the sauce that made it really delicious.
- It was Berlin where we first met.
- It wasn't Alex who took the money.
- It was evening when he next contacted us.
- It's traffic that causes most of the pollution here.

SPEAKING: Paraphrasing



- 1** **1.3** Listen and tick (✓) the phrases you hear.
- 1 Let me get this straight. _____
 - 2 So what you mean is ... Is that right? _____
 - 3 That's to say ... _____
 - 4 So, the basic idea is ... _____
 - 5 Basically, ... _____
 - 6 What I think you're saying is ... _____
 - 7 In other words ... _____
 - 8 So, you're saying that ... _____
 - 9 Let me rephrase that ... _____
 - 10 Let me see, so ... _____
 - 11 Oh, I see, so ... _____
 - 12 So, what I mean is ... _____

- 2** **1.3** Listen again and complete these sentences from the dialogue with the fillers the speakers use.
- 1 But you worked all of last weekend, didn't you, and now, _____, you're intending to work all this weekend as well?
 - 2 _____, it might not be so easy when I'm older, especially if I have a family.
 - 3 _____, yes, that's right.
 - 4 If you keep ignoring us, we might just give up on you in the end, _____?
 - 5 It's only been, _____, two or three weeks.
 - 6 My manager is leaving in June, and I _____ think that if I can prove myself now, I'll have a good chance of getting her job.
 - 7 I want to make sure that doesn't happen to my kids, _____.
 - 8 I've never really _____. I can't imagine having a family for years yet.
 - 9 Gosh, _____! How about both?

- 3** Choose the correct options to complete the conversation.
- A** My dad's feeling down at the moment. ¹Let's see, / Basically, he's hurt his back and it's really affecting his work. He's a sales rep and usually he drives all over the place, so it's a real problem, ²you know what I mean, / like? And it makes him ³basically / kind of walk strangely.
 - B** That must be tough. My mum sometimes goes to an osteopath who's really good. He's in, ⁴er, / you see, Carter Street, I think, and his name's Martin Young.
 - A** What does an osteopath actually do? I've never been to one, ⁵like / you see.
 - B** ⁶Gosh, that's a hard one, / Basically, but from what Mum tells me, I think they try to, ⁷you know what I mean, / basically, move your bones and muscles and stuff into the right position.
 - A** ⁸Hmm, / Let's see, I'm not sure my dad could afford it, to be honest. Is it, ⁹you see, / like, really expensive?
 - B** ¹⁰That's a good question. / Gosh, that's a hard one. I'll find out and let you know.

- 4** Use your own ideas to complete the conversation.
- A** If I have to do something difficult at work, for example, let's see, giving a presentation or something like that, I find it really helps to wear something smart. Or, to put it another way, _____.
 - B** So, what you're saying is that if you look confident, you feel confident.
 - A** Exactly. Don't you find the same?
 - B** I've never really considered it before. _____.
 - A** I think clothes are really important. They tell you so much about a person.
 - B** So, what you mean is _____. Is that right?
 - A** Yes, in my opinion, if someone doesn't make an effort with their clothes, they won't make an effort with other things. That is to say, _____.
 - B** Let me see, so _____. But what if you can't afford the perfect clothes for each different occasion?
 - A** That's a good question. But even supermarket clothes are pretty good these days. In other words, _____.
 - B** I get it, I'd better put on my best clothes the next time I come to your house!



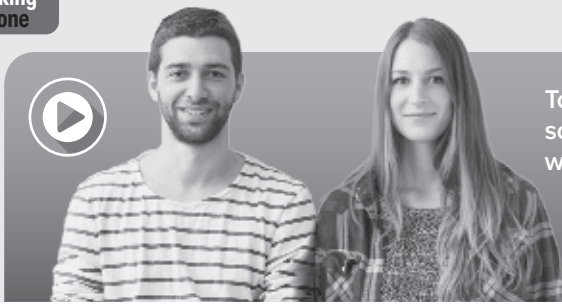
HOME

BLOG

PODCASTS

ABOUT

CONTACT



Tom and Sam interview
someone who lives
without money.

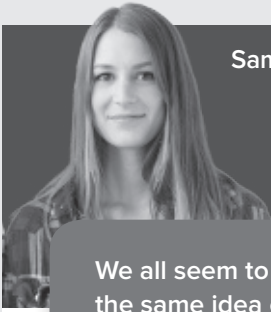


LISTENING

- 1 1.4 Listen to the podcast and choose the best summary.
- Sophie lives with a woman who gives her most of what she needs. She is worried about picking food because it may be poisonous or polluted. She doesn't think she will continue without money for ever.
 - Sophie doesn't use money at the moment, though she may do in the future. She has found ways to get food and accommodation without spending money.
 - Sophie doesn't use money, but she says that her lifestyle is not always easy. It is difficult for her to get enough to eat, and she would not expect her future children to live without money.
- 2 1.4 Listen again. Are the sentences true (T), false (F) or doesn't say (DS)?
- Sophie works for other people in return for cash. _____
 - She likes the place where she lives. _____
 - She doesn't eat meat. _____
 - According to Sophie, most wild food is poisonous. _____
 - It's dangerous to pick food by a busy road. _____
 - Sophie's lifestyle helps her to keep fit. _____
 - She wishes she could give her family expensive birthday presents. _____
 - She wants her children to understand how money can affect the environment. _____

READING

- 1 Read Sam's blog on page 7 quickly. Match paragraphs A–F with summaries 1–6.
- Sam was amazed that Charlotte felt so jealous of her sister. _____
 - Sam was sad because she had upset her friend. _____
 - Sam wants to continue to be friends with Charlotte. _____
 - Charlotte received a vase as a gift. _____
 - Fairness is also important to monkeys. _____
 - Different people define fairness in different ways. _____
- 2 Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.
- Sam reacted to what Charlotte told her by saying things that showed she
 - didn't understand what Charlotte had said.
 - thought that Charlotte was joking.
 - didn't think Charlotte's anger was reasonable.
 - Charlotte's aunt was giving things away because
 - she won't have so much space in her new home.
 - she wanted to make her nieces happy.
 - they aren't suitable for a modern flat.
 - Charlotte has always loved the vase her aunt gave her but
 - she really wanted to have the piano.
 - she was annoyed because her sister received a more valuable gift.
 - she thinks she should have been given something better than her sister.
 - Sam thinks Charlotte's feelings are unreasonable because
 - her sister will be able to use the piano and she won't.
 - she loves her sister and should be pleased for her.
 - she has always wanted the vase.
 - When she looked on the internet, Sam realized that this type of jealous behaviour is due to
 - events that happened during our childhood.
 - the way our brains have developed.
 - the fact that we are physically incapable of controlling our emotions.
 - The fact that people have different ideas about fairness means that
 - governments need to make sure that everyone is treated equally.
 - governments need to prevent them from fighting about it.
 - it is difficult for them to agree about political decisions.



Sam writes about the idea of fairness.

That's so unfair!

We all seem to have an inbuilt sense of what is fair and what isn't fair in life, but do we all have the same idea of what fairness is? Apparently not! A recent disagreement has reminded me that even close friends have different ideas of fairness.

- A** I was feeling a bit down earlier. The reason I felt bad was that I upset my dear friend Charlotte last night by making some sarcastic comments about something she told me. Something that seemed so childish to me I could hardly believe I was hearing it, but which she obviously felt so outraged about that my lack of sensitivity genuinely hurt her.
- B** So, Charlotte's aunt is moving from her enormous farmhouse to a small flat, and she's been sorting out all the stuff she needs to get rid of. She called round to Charlotte's to give her an antique vase that Charlotte's always loved. You'd think that Charlotte would be pleased by her aunt's generosity. But no, instead of being thankful, she's green with envy because her aunt is giving her sister her grand piano, and that's worth far more than the vase.
- C** I was astonished at her reaction, and I'm afraid I let it show. Charlotte has gained something lovely that she didn't have before. Why can't she just be happy for her sister? After all, the piano has to go somewhere. What shocked me most was that Charlotte doesn't even play the piano! It's fair to say that our evening ended awkwardly, and we didn't share our usual hug when we said goodbye.
- D** My friendship with Charlotte is important to me, and after a good night's sleep I wondered if I'd been a little hard on her. When I googled 'fairness', I discovered that it is indeed incredibly important to us, and it may be more of a biological thing than we realize. It seems that even monkeys display similar behaviour to Charlotte. In one study, a monkey was taught to give the researcher a rock, and received a cucumber in return. At first, the monkey was content with that, but it was when it saw a neighbouring monkey being rewarded with a (much more desirable) grape that the trouble began. From then on, when the first monkey was given a cucumber, it would throw it back at the researcher and shake the cage in fury.
- E** So even monkeys care about fairness. However, there is little agreement about what fairness consists of. Apparently, there are three main ideas, which can be summed up as 'sameness', 'deservedness' or 'need'. In other words, some people think that everyone should be equal, some that we should be rewarded according to effort, and some that we should help those who need it most. When you think about how basic yet conflicting those concepts are, and the implications they have for governments, it's no wonder we argue about politics!
- F** Anyway, I feel better now I know that what I saw as Charlotte's selfishness may not be entirely under her control. I hope we'll be able to mend our relationship, but I guess that telling her she's acting like a monkey may not be the best way to go about it!

