



Upper intermediate 1 – Unit 2

Let's read this email....

- From: Teresa Sayers
- To: dad 'n' mom
- Hi Mom! Hi Dad!

Thanks for your messages- always love news from home. It's getting hotter and hotter here. Wish we had air conditioning and not just two junky fans. Since I arrived last September the heat's been getting worse and worse. Thank goodness I start work early, 7:00. It's the only cool (no – less hot) time of day in Tanzania. But hey, I have some cool news. I just bought a bike – well, not exactly a bike, a “piki-piki” It's kind of a little motorcycle. Everyone has one. Great for getting around. Don't freak, Mom! I'm really careful, especially on the bumpy road up to the school.

Last Sunday a group of us teachers (on our piki-piki of course) headed up the coast to a really awesome beach, Pangani Beach. Incredible white sand covered with fabulous shells. Did I tell you? Shelling is a really popular pastime here. I've already collected hundreds – some are huge and all shades of pink and orange. I'm going to bring them home. Anyway, we took a bunch of picnic stuff and barbecued fish and swam until the sun went down. The sunsets here are unbelievable – very quick but spectacular. I'm sending you a photo with this e-mail.

So that's it for now. Missing you tons. Can't wait to see you.

Love,

Teresa

Form questions. Ask and answer them with a partner.

- How/long/ Teresa/ Africa?
- What time/ start work?
- What / just buy?
- Where/ Last Sunday?
- What/ bring home?
- How many/ collected already?
- What/ do at the beach?
- What/ sending?

LET'S GO BACK AND FIND
INFORMAL WORDS AND
TURN THEM INTO FORMAL
WORDS

Test your grammar

What is strange about these sentences? What should they be?

- Columbus has discovered America.
- Man first walked on the moon.
- I traveled all my life. I went everywhere.
- I've learned English.
- I've been losing my passport.

Which of these verbs forms can change from simple to continuous? What is the change in meaning?

- What do you do in New York?
- I know you don't like my boyfriend.
- I had a cup of tea at 8:00
- Someone's eaten my sandwich.
- I'm hot because I've been running.

Let's focus on our past tenses and put the verbs in correct tense.

1. Charles Dickens _____(write) Oliver Twist in 1837. I _____(write) two best-selling crime stories. She _____ (write) her autobiography for the past 18 months.

2. _____ you ever _____ (try) Mexican food?

_____ you _____ (try) *chiles rellenos* when you were in Mexico?

3. How many times _____ you _____(marry)?

How many times _____ Henry VIII _____(marry)?

4. I _____(live) in the same house since I was born.

He _____(live) with his brother for the past week.

5. Cindy _____ finally _____(get) her driver's license. She _____(try) to pass the test for years.

A	B
1. Peter comes	a. From Switzerland
2. Peter is coming by	b. At 8:00 tonight
3. I wrote a report this morning	a. I'll finish it this afternoon
4. I was writing a report this morning	b. I sent it off this afternoon
5. I heard her scream	a. When he saw a mouse.
6. I heard the baby screaming	b. All night long
7. What have you done	a. Since I last saw you ?
8. What have you been doing	b. With my dictionary? I can't find
9. I've had	a. A headache all day.
10. I've been having	b. Second thoughts about the new job.
11. I've known	a. My new neighbors
12. I've been getting to know	b. Anna for over ten years
13. I just cut	a. My finger. It hurts!
14. I've been cutting	b. Wood all morning.

So... What tenses are we working on?

- He works for IBM.
- It rained all day yesterday.
- I've lost my passport.
- I'm working with Jim for a couple of days.
- It was raining when I woke up
- The company has been losing money for years.
- Present simple
- Past simple
- Present Perfect simple.
- Present continuous
- Past continuous
- Present Perfect Continuous

PRESENT SIMPLE TENSE vs PRESENT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Present Simple

General truths.

It rarely rains in the desert.

Present habits.

Marsha goes to dance club every Thursday.

Timetable events.

The plane to London takes off at 6:30 a.m.

Permanent states.

He works at a hotel.

Present Continuous

Actions happening now.

She is reading a newspaper upstairs.

Annoying habits (+ always).

She is always singing in the shower.

Future arrangements.

She is getting married on 3 November.

Temporary states.

She is working at the hotel until next week.

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE vs PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

Present Perfect

Finished actions.

The kids have played for two hours.

Permanent actions.

I have taught English for 12 years.

Emphasis on the result of the action.

He has repaired the car.

Indicate how much/many have been completed.

It has taken six years to write this book.

Present Perfect Continuous

Unfinished actions.

The kids have been playing since morning.

Temporary actions.

I have been teaching this class for one hour.

Emphasis on the duration of the action.

He has been repairing the car for two hours.

Indicate how long something has been happening.

I have been studying English for two months.

Simple Past vs. Past Continuous

Simple Past

We use the **simple past** to talk about:

Completed actions, **habits** and **facts** in the past.

- I **went** to the cinema **yesterday**.
- I **always visited** my grandparents in my summer holidays **when I was little**.
- I **lived** near Liverpool for a couple of years.



Past Continuous

The **past continuous** is used to express:

Interrupted actions, **specific time** as an **interruption** and **parallel** actions.

- I **was watching** TV **when** the phone rang.
 - **Last night at 7pm**, I **was having** dinner.
- While** she **was doing** her homework her brother **was playing** football.



Apply the correct tense

- I _____ (drink) more water recently, and I feel better.
- He _____ (eat) six bars of chocolate last night.
- Julie _____ (cook) dinner. Let's go and eat!
- I asked her if she _____ (finish) the class, but she said that the professor was at the front of the hall lecturing while she _____ (talk) to me.
- He _____ his essay all day, but he _____ yet. (*write*) (*not/finish*)
- I usually _____ (go) to the gym on the High Street, but it's closed for repairs at the moment so I _____ (go) to the one in the shopping center.
- How many goals _____ (your team / score) in the first half?
- On July 30, the Florida man _____ (rob) an apartment in the town of Hollywood, only to encounter the apartment's tenant on his way to the door.
- I _____ (work) in Dubai since March. When _____ (you/arrive)?
- Women working full-time _____ (earn) on average 22% less than men working full-time

Answers

- I've been drinking more water recently, and I feel better.
- He ate six bars of chocolate last night.
- Julie has cooked dinner. Let's go and eat!
- I asked her if she finished the class, but she said that the professor was at the front of the hall lecturing while she was talking to me.
- He **has been writing** his essay all day, but he **hasn't finished** yet.
- I usually go to the gym on the High Street, but it's closed for repairs at the moment so I've been going to the one in the shopping center.
- How many goals did your team score in the first half?
- On July 30, the Florida man robbed an apartment in the town of Hollywood, only to encounter the apartment's tenant on his way to the door.
- I've **been working** in Dubai since March. When **did you arrive**?
- Women working full-time earn on average 22% less than men working full-time

Let's Discuss

- Why do people live abroad? Make a list of reasons.
- What do you think will happen if everyone decided to stay in their country for work and to live? Mention some pros and cons.

Things to skim :

- 1. As we're 2,600 meters above sea level, I easily get out of breath when I'm exercising.
- 2. When we first arrived it was 160F- So hot the road melted – and now it's freezing.
- 3..... “We converse in what we call Espanglish”
- 4. We live in the middle of nowhere off Highway 54.
- 5. It's surrounding mines are said to make more money than any other city.
- 6. Our house has a basement for shelter and from tornadoes.
- 7.I wish football (they call it “soccer”) was more popular here.
- 8. We now have a pleasant walkway along the seafront.

Ian Walker- Smith *in Chile*

Ian Walker Smith comes from Crewe, England but now lives and works in Chile. He's married to a Chilean woman, Andrea, and works for a European astronomical agency in the town of Paranal.

Ian says: " I work shifts of eight days in Paranal and get six to rest at home __ in my case, the mining town of Antofagasta, a harrowing two-hour drive away on the coast. It takes a real toll on me being so far from Andrea. I miss her when I am away.

Where he works?

I work at Paranal Observatory, where every night the boundaries of our universe are probed by four of the world's largest telescopes. I'm part of a 12- strong I.T team which looks after everything from satellite ground stations to desktop support. My role is to make sure the computer run 24/7. As Paranal is in the middle of nowhere- up a mountain in the desert- the sky is truly amazing. As we're 2,600 meters above sea level, I easily get out of breath when I'm exercising, and each time I arrive for a week on shift, I can't think straight or fast for the first day or so.

Why he moved?

I decided to move to Chile four years ago when I was a 25-year-old with itchy feet (and wanted to get of the way of an ex-girlfriend) I was working for Littlewoods Home Shopping Group, and one day a colleague pointed out this job in Chile. We both thought it would be a good idea, but I was the one who put a CV together.

Life in Chile

Landing at Santiago airport was my first experience of language being such a barrier. I couldn't speak more than a handful of words in Spanish and would believe that my baggage had gotten lost! So my first couple of hours in Chile were spent trying to locate my missing possessions. Today I can order food in restaurants and argue with mechanics about my car, but I can't really make myself understood on any deeper level. I can't get my thoughts across as a native speaker could. Andrea speaks pretty good English, and we converse in what we call "Espanglish"- at least we can understand each other.

What he misses?

Even after four years, I don't feel I belong. Over Christmas I went back to the UK for a month's holiday- on landing at Heathrow I felt at home right away. What I miss most is greenery. My own culture still fits me like the winter gloves I left behind when I came to work in the desert sun. Shame I can't say the same of my old winter trousers....

Daniel Allum In Kansas

“Christmas is exciting when you’re 12 – and even more so when it’s your first abroad and your first with guaranteed blanket of snow”, says Daniel Allum from Oakley, England

Daniel says “ I am excited about having a white Christmas- it’ll be fun. When we first arrived in the U.S it was 106 F- so hot the road melted- and now it’s freezing with grass covered in snow and ice. We’ve built a snowman outside, and there’s a big hill for sledding. On Christmas Day we’ll probably mess around inside as there’s meant to be eight inches of snow. In some ways the snow makes it feel more like Christmas, But I’m used to having relatives around, and they won’t take a 12-hour flight here just for one day.

Why they moved?

My family and I – four kids and two adults- lived in a little town called Oakley in Bedfordshire, and now we live in a smaller one in Kansas called Hugoton. Hugoton is flat with no trees and just tumbleweed everywhere. We live in the middle of nowhere off Highway 54. It’s one of those towns that you can just drive through in two minutes. We moved here because dad, who worked for a farming company, got sick of leaving for work so early and getting home so late. Last November he called us all down from our rooms and said he’d started job interviews to move to another country, and in June we packed up and left. We spend more time together now. Dad gets home from work much earlier, and Mom can’t work because of the visa she is on. So, she tidies the house and messes around on the internet. I’ve got a sister called Rebecca – she’s 10- who loves animals, a little sister called Scarlet who’s six and whines, and an older brother called Andrew. Who annoys me

Life in Kansas

Life's different here. Our house has basement for shelter from tornadoes – we don't have basements in England or tornadoes. Tornadoes are not uncommon in Kansas. And I think there's a language barrier because everyone laughs when I say "lorry" instead of "truck" or "petrol" instead of "gas". My friends try to talk like me, but they just sound like Queen. School is better than in England, but I hate saying the pledge of allegiance. Everyday before school we have to say it. In England we don't sing "God save the Queen" every morning. And everyone here likes country music. I like Eminem and Jay-Z, but if I went to school singing them, I'd probably get suspended.

What he misses?

What I miss most is fish and chips. Mom really misses being close to a main town – when she sees three shops in a row she gets all excited. Also I wish football (they call it "soccer") was more popular here. No one knows what I'm talking about. Last week there was meant to be an Arsenal game on TV, but instead it got changed to Oklahoma football. American football stinks. But I really like living here. The people are really nice, and I don't get car sick anymore as the roads are so long and straight."

Let's divide into two groups: Group A will answer these questions about Ian while Group B will answer these questions about Daniel

- Where did he go to live abroad? Why?
- How long has he been there?
- What does he do there?
- What do you learn about his family?
- What is the new hometown like?
- Have there been any difficulties?
- In what ways is he “in the middle of nowhere”?
- Does he feel at home in his new home?
- What does he like and dislike about his new life?
- What does he miss?