

Tenses II

Read the whole story from beginning to end before starting to write in the answers. Then complete the text using the correct verb forms. Also supply during, for, since or while as necessary. (d/f/s/w)

Surprise Visit

It was four o'clock on a Friday afternoon in late November and it _____ (already, get) dark when Mrs Simmons _____ (hear) a car pulling up at the bottom of the garden of her isolated country cottage. _____ (raise) herself slowly from her armchair, she _____ (go) over to the window and _____ (look) between the curtains. There, at the bottom of the garden path, was her daughter, Julie, _____ (wrap) in an enormous fur coat, but _____ (look) cold nevertheless.

Mrs Simmons _____ (turn) round and _____ (move) slowly in the direction of the front door, her rheumatism preventing her from _____ (move) any faster. _____ (d/f/w) she _____ (walk) to the door, her daughter _____ (begin) knocking.

"It's all right," she _____ (cry), "I _____ (come)! I _____ (let) you in as I _____ (unlock) the door. You know it's stiff and _____ (need) _____ (repair).

"Don't worry, Mum," _____ (laugh) Julie's voice from outside. "I won't knock the door down," and she _____ (hide) the present in her coat pocket.

The key turned in the lock and, when the door _____ (open), the passage light _____ (shine) on Julie's face.

"Happy Birthday, Mum! How are you?"

"Oh, Julie! This is a nice surprise! But why _____ (you, not, tell) me you _____ (come) when you _____ (phone) last night?"

"Well, I _____ (not, know) if I _____ (be) able to leave work in time, but _____ (d/f/w) I _____ (drive) to the office this morning, I _____ (remember) my boss

_____ (owe) me an afternoon's holiday, so he
_____ (let) _____ (I, leave) at one.

A quarter of an hour later, they _____ (sit) round a
cosy fire and _____ (have) tea, when Mrs Simmons
suddenly _____ (get up) and _____
(draw) the curtains.

"I _____ (not, like) the curtains open at night," she
said to Julie. "In fact I _____ (hate) it. I always feel that
I _____ (watch *passive*), although I know that is
impossible in such a quiet place as this. Anyway, my dear, tell me what
_____ (you, do) recently. You are always in such a hurry
on the phone, and I _____ (not, have) a letter from you
_____ (d/f/s) you _____ (fly) back from
the States.

"Well, first of all, Mum, I _____ (bring) you this,"
said Julie, and she _____ (take) the small parcel out of
her coat pocket. "I hope you _____ (like) them. I
_____ (buy) them _____ (d/f/w) our
trip to the States."

"But, Julie, you shouldn't have!" exclaimed her mother, unwrapping a
box of scented soaps. "They are lovely. But _____ (I,
know) you were going to buy me these, I _____ (tell)
_____ (you, spend) the money on the children."

"Oh, don't worry about that," said Julie. "I _____ (go
back) there after Christmas and, if you like, I _____
(bring) you some more. Now, what _____ (I, do) lately?
Not much really. Everything _____ (go) all right at work
for me at the moment, but George _____ (have) a lot of
extra work because his boss is ill. Little Mary _____ (just,
start) swimming lessons, and _____ (go) to the
swimming baths as often as possible.

"Bill's French _____ (get) better," continued Julie,
"and, if all goes well, well, he _____ (go) to Paris at
Easter with a group from his school."

Two hours later, _____ (d/f/w) Julie
_____ (say) goodbye to her mother, she noticed that it
_____ (start) to snow.

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Read the whole story from beginning to end before starting to write in the answers. Then complete the text using the correct verb forms. Also supply during, for, since or while as necessary. (d/f/s/w)

Surprise Visit

It was four o'clock on a Friday afternoon in late November and it was **already getting** dark when Mrs Simmons **heard** a car pulling up at the bottom of the garden of her isolated country cottage. **Raising** (Having raised) herself slowly from her armchair, she **went** over to the window and **looked** between the curtains. There, at the bottom of the garden path, was her daughter, Julie, **wrapped** in an enormous fur coat, but **looking** cold nevertheless.

Mrs Simmons **turned** round and **moved** slowly in the direction of the front door, her rheumatism preventing her from **moving** any faster. **While** she **was walking** to the door, her daughter **began** knocking.

"It's all right," she **cried**, "I **am coming**! I'll **let** you in as I **unlock** the door. You know it's stiff and **needs repairing**."

"Don't worry, Mum," **laughed** Julie's voice from outside. "I won't knock the door down," and she **hid** the present in her coat pocket.

The key turned in the lock and, when the door **opened**, the passage light **shone** on Julie's face.

"Happy Birthday, Mum! How are you?"

"Oh, Julie! This is a nice surprise! But why **didn't you tell** me you **were coming** (would be coming) when you **phoned** last night?"

"Well, I **didn't know** if I **would be** (should be) able to leave work in time, but **while** I **was driving** to the office this morning, I **remembered** my boss **owed** me an afternoon's holiday, so he **let me leave** at one."

A quarter of an hour later, they **were sitting** round a cosy fire and **having** tea, when Mrs Simmons suddenly **got up** and **drew** the curtains.

"I **don't like** the curtains open at night," she said to Julie. "In fact I **hate** it. I always feel that I **am being watched**, although I know that is impossible in such a quiet place as this. Anyway, my dear, tell me what **you have been doing** recently. You are always in such a hurry on the phone, and I **haven't had** a letter from you **since** you **flew** back from the States."

"Well, first of all, Mum, I **have brought** you this," said Julie, and she **took** the small parcel out of her coat pocket. "I hope you'll **like** (like) them. I **bought** them **during** our trip to the States."

"But, Julie, you shouldn't have!" exclaimed her mother, unwrapping a box of scented soaps. "They are lovely. But **had I known** you were going to buy me these, I **would** (should) **have told you to spend** the money on the children."

“Oh, don’t worry about that,” said Julie. “I **am going back** there after Christmas and, if you like, I’ll **bring** you some more. Now, what **have I been doing** lately? Not much really. Everything **is going** all right at work for me at the moment, but George **has got** (has had) a lot of extra work because his boss is ill. Little Mary **has just started** swimming lessons, and **goes** to the swimming baths as often as possible.

“Bill’s French **is getting** better,” continued Julie, “and, if all goes well, well, he **will go** (will be going/ is going) to Paris at Easter with a group from his school.”

Two hours later, **while** Julie **was saying** goodbye to her mother, she noticed that it **was starting** (had started) to snow.

Spencer, Tom. *The Golden Grammar Book*, 3rd Ed. Lausanne: Golden English Books, 2002, pp. 179-81.