

AMERICAN EMPOWER

WORKBOOK
WITH ANSWERS

B2

UPPER INTERMEDIATE



Wayne Rimmer

Better
Learning

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1 GRAMMAR Review of tenses

a Underline the correct words to complete the text.

The other day, I was walking down the street when I ¹have seen / was seeing / saw Sam Carter, you know, the famous movie director. I was really excited because he ²has been / is / was one of my favorite directors for years, and I watch his movies all the time. "What ³is he doing / does he do / has he done here?" I thought to myself. There was only one way to find out. Sam ⁴went / was going / has gone into a café, but I stopped him before he went inside and said, "Hi, Sam!" He smiled at me, and we started to talk outside. I couldn't believe I ⁵was talking / talked / am talking to Sam Carter! He always ⁶is looking / looks / has looked so serious in photos, but he's a really friendly guy. In the end, Sam ⁷invites / has invited / invited me for coffee. Then he told me why he was in town. His company ⁸made / has made / was making a new movie with a lot of new faces in it, just ordinary people, but they needed some more.

"How about you?" Sam asked. "⁹Did you watch / Have you watched / Are you watching any of my movies? Do you want to be in one?" I was so shocked, I ¹⁰have dropped / was dropping / dropped my cup and the hot coffee went all over Sam; he yelled and ran outside. I made a terrible first impression!

b 01.01 Listen and check.

c Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in the box: simple present, present continuous, present perfect, simple past, past continuous, or past perfect.

come do not finish get not have
meet remember produce ~~work~~ write

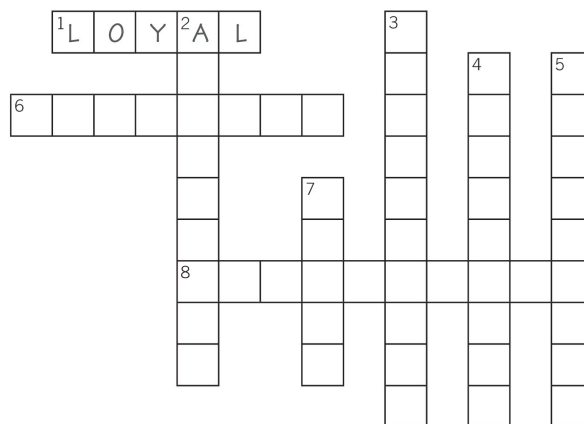
- John is working at a small marketing agency at the moment.
- _____ you ever _____ anybody famous?
- A What _____ you _____?
B I'm a student.
- Shakespeare _____ plays and poetry, and thousands of words in English come from them.
- Our friends _____ for dinner, but they had to cancel because they were sick.
- Not many people _____ her well now.
- He was rich and famous, but he _____ many friends.
- The game _____ yet; there are five minutes to go.
- Things _____ slowly _____ worse at the office now that Mrs. Andrews has retired.
- Eva was very happy with the design samples he _____.

2 VOCABULARY Character adjectives

a Underline the correct words to complete the sentences.

- Don't be so *motivated* / stubborn / *ambitious*! You know what I am saying makes sense.
- I wanted him to help me, but he was very *unsympathetic* / *inspiring* / *passionate* and didn't want to do anything.
- Margarita is a really *inspiring* / *sensitive* / *arrogant* woman and an example to everyone.
- Nicole is *motivated* / *optimistic* / *passionate* about basketball and trains every day.
- He's rude and *sensitive* / *determined* / *arrogant* – he thinks he's better than everyone else.
- If you are *motivated* / *self-confident* / *pessimistic*, you do things because you really want to do them.

b Complete the crossword puzzle.



→ Across

- showing firm friendship or support
- not listening to people's opinions or changing your mind
- thinking about the future in a positive way

↓ Down

- wanting to be successful
- making a decision and not letting anyone stop you
- easy to hurt or upset
- people have a good opinion of you
- having no experience and expecting things to be all right

3 PRONUNCIATION Sound and spelling: e

a How is the underlined letter e pronounced in each word in the box? Complete the chart with the words.

concerned desert desire dessert helpful identity
prefer prizes revise sensitive service slept

Sound 1 /ɪ/ (e.g., <i>determined</i>)	Sound 2 /e/ (e.g., <i>respected</i>)	Sound 3 /ɜ:/ (e.g., <i>serve</i>)
		concerned

b 01.02 Listen and check.

1 GRAMMAR Questions

a Underline the correct words to complete the conversation.

- FABIO** Hi, Gabriela. ¹*You have / Do you have* five minutes?
- GABRIELA** Sure. ²*What / What did* you want to talk to me about?
- FABIO** Well, I'm doing a triathlon next month. ³*Didn't / Weren't* you read my post?
- GABRIELA** No, I haven't seen it. A triathlon, wow! ⁴*What for? / For what?* That sounds really tough!
- FABIO** Yeah, it's not easy. It's swimming, biking, then running.
- GABRIELA** ⁵*What / Which* of those is the most difficult?
- FABIO** All of them! Um, ⁶*weren't / didn't* you a good swimmer once?
- GABRIELA** Yeah, once. What are you looking at me like ⁷*that for / for that*?
- FABIO** Do you think ⁸*could you / you could* coach me?
- GABRIELA** I don't know ⁹*if / what* I have enough time. ¹⁰*Can / Should* I think about it and call you later?
- FABIO** No problem. That's great! I'll swim a lot faster with your help.
- GABRIELA** Who ¹¹*knows / does know*? You might win!

b  01.03 Listen and check.

c Put the words in the correct order to make questions.

- 1 a / want / do / marathon / to / you / run ?
Do you want to run a marathon?
- 2 to / this / going / is / do / why / she ?

- 3 the / register / who / competition / need to / for / doesn't ?

- 4 giving / why / our / aren't / tickets / they / us ?

- 5 of / which / to do / would you / the challenges / like ?

- 6 have / the most / ever done / you / difficult / what is / thing ?

- 7 for / did / hard training / what / this / we do / all ?

- 8 the / happened / of / what / at / end / the game ?

- 9 have / think we / of / a chance / you / do / winning ?

- 10 your / who / website / designed ?

2 VOCABULARY Trying and succeeding

a Complete the sentences with the phrases in the box. There is one extra phrase you do not need.

succeed in give up stick with keep it up
manage to try out ~~work out~~



- 1 Sandra likes to work out at the gym on her lunch break.



- 2 José wants to _____ a new recipe for lemon cake.



- 3 We really need to _____ fast food.



- 4 Charlie told his kids to _____.



- 5 The Smiths didn't _____ assemble their kitchen table.



- 6 It won't be easy to _____ this diet.

b Complete the sentences with the phrases in the box.

give up ~~take a chance~~ stick with keep it up
make an effort manage to drop out try out work out

- 1 I'd like to take a chance at snowboarding, but I'm afraid of falling and breaking something.
- 2 If you _____ of this class, you won't graduate on time with all of us.
- 3 If you _____ this training program, you'll get back in shape.
- 4 I play tennis on Saturdays, and I also _____ once or twice a week at the gym.
- 5 My car is at the mechanic's, and I don't know if they'll _____ repair it by Monday.
- 6 Ben went sailing with me twice and he's terrible at it, but he doesn't want to _____.
- 7 Your writing has improved a lot this semester, so _____.
- 8 Would you like to _____ the new version of the software?
- 9 I know Jade's not interested in the project, but she could at least _____ to get involved.

1 CONVERSATION SKILLS**Cutting a conversation short****a** Check (✓) the best way to cut the conversation short.

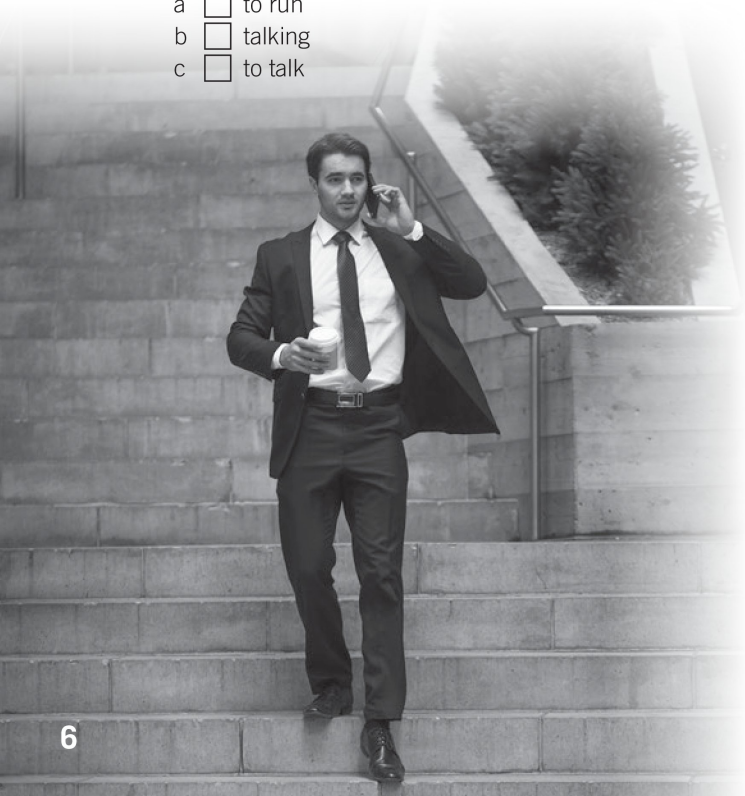
- 1 Sorry, but _____ now.
 - a ☒ I really have to go
 - b ☐ I have to finish
 - c ☐ there's nothing else to say
- 2 _____ Speak to you soon.
 - a ☐ I have nothing else to say.
 - b ☐ Are we finished?
 - c ☐ Got to run now.
- 3 OK, _____.
 - a ☐ I look forward to speaking to you
 - b ☐ see you tomorrow
 - c ☐ that's enough
- 4 _____, Irena.
 - a ☐ Talk to you later
 - b ☐ Tell me again
 - c ☐ We'll speak about this
- 5 _____ Can you call later?
 - a ☐ This is not convenient.
 - b ☐ Who's speaking?
 - c ☐ Can't talk now.
- 6 Well, I have to _____.
 - a ☐ leave
 - b ☐ run
 - c ☐ end
- 7 Bye, nice _____.
 - a ☐ conversation
 - b ☐ talking to you
 - c ☐ day
- 8 I have no time _____ now, but thanks for calling.
 - a ☐ to run
 - b ☐ talking
 - c ☐ to talk

**2 USEFUL LANGUAGE****Explaining and checking understanding****a** Put the excerpts in the correct order to explain how to take a good photo.

- ☐ Always remember to keep still. If the camera moves, you get a bad photo.
- ☐ Is that clear? Do you want me to explain any of this again?
- ☐ But whatever camera you buy, read the instructions carefully. Make sure you know what your camera can do. Did you get that?
- ☒ 1 You don't need to get a very expensive camera. These have a lot of functions you just don't need. Do you know what I mean?
- ☐ Another thing to remember is to take your time. Only real professionals can take good photos in a hurry.
- ☐ When you take a photo, the most important thing is the light. Basically, the more light, the better, so choose the right time of day and place. Do you get the idea?

b ▶ **01.04** Listen and check.**3 PRONUNCIATION Rapid speech****a** ▶ **01.05** Listen. Check (✓) the sentences where you hear the final /t/ of the underlined words.

- 1 ☐ I must go and see her soon.
- 2 ☐ The nurse said I must eat less bread.
- 3 ☐ We've got to have more help.
- 4 ☐ Sorry, you can't take one with you.
- 5 ☐ Haven't any of the people arrived?
- 6 ☐ Sarah said she didn't do the homework.
- 7 ☐ Claudia has been there, hasn't she?
- 8 ☐ The store might open again.
- 9 ☐ We can't use our phones here.
- 10 ☐ The children must go first.



1 READING

a Read the article. Are the sentences true or false?

- 1 The woman has the same opinion as most other people.
- 2 She has noticed an imbalance in communication.
- 3 The experiment involved the couple not communicating for a day.
- 4 It was a positive experience for them.
- 5 Technology has made us forget our priorities.
- 6 We don't need technology.

b Read the article again and check (✓) the best ending for the sentences.

- 1 The purpose of the first paragraph is ...
 - a ☒ to explain the writer's motivation
 - b ☐ to compare different types of communication
 - c ☐ to introduce a theory about communication
- 2 The main rule of the experiment was that they ...
 - a ☐ had to communicate as little as possible
 - b ☐ couldn't say anything to each other
 - c ☐ needed to explain things very simply
- 3 The point about breakfast is that ...
 - a ☐ making meals involves technology
 - b ☐ it was an amusing situation
 - c ☐ everything was so simple
- 4 The rest of the day showed that the experiment ...
 - a ☐ needed to continue for longer
 - b ☐ only worked until a friend got involved
 - c ☐ was not as easy as they thought
- 5 She texted her husband to discuss ...
 - a ☐ plans for a party
 - b ☐ the effectiveness of the experiment
 - c ☐ her friend's communication problems
- 6 The conclusion is that ...
 - a ☐ the experiment was mostly a failure
 - b ☐ technology has changed relationships between people
 - c ☐ speaking is still an effective kind of communication

2 WRITING SKILLS

Organizing an article

a Read the tips (1–8) for writing an article.
Is the advice good or bad? Check (✓) the correct box.

When you're writing an article, ...	Good	Bad
1 plan the structure of your article before you start writing it.	✓	
2 write the article in your own language first, then translate it.		
3 write short paragraphs with one or two sentences.		
4 include questions to engage the reader.		
5 use a dictionary to find interesting words and phrases.		
6 use linking words and expressions to join ideas.		
7 evaluate ideas – write what you think about them.		
8 check your writing when you have finished.		

Face-to-Face Texting

A lot of people think that technology brings people closer together, but I'm not so sure. People spend so much time texting and looking at screens that they hardly ever speak to one another. This made me think, and I decided to do a little experiment.

One day my husband and I decided not to speak to each other at all. We could email, text, etc., but we couldn't actually communicate in spoken words. So, at breakfast, he sent me a text asking if I wanted any more toast, and I replied that I didn't, but I wouldn't mind another cup of coffee.

We both thought it was funny at first, but things got more complicated as the day went on. For example, a friend called me about a special party she was organizing. I had to text my husband for about 20 minutes to discuss everything.

The whole thing made me appreciate that nothing can replace face-to-face communication – talking to each other. Communication may be easier because of technology, but people aren't machines. We sometimes forget that simple things are often the most important in life.

3 WRITING

a Imagine that for one week you had to walk or bike to get around instead of using a car or public transportation. Write an article about your experience. Use the notes and your own ideas to help you.

Introduction: how you usually get around, your feelings about walking / biking vs. cars / public transportation

Your experience: good things (exercise, see interesting things, cheaper)

Your experience: difficulties (takes longer, bad weather, dangerous?)

Evaluation: walking / biking better in some situations, should use cars / public transportation less



UNIT 1

Reading and listening extension

1 READING

a Read the article and check (✓) the statement that matches Nick's attitude about his own body.

- 1 ☐ It's more difficult living without arms and legs now than when he was younger.
- 2 ☐ His physical condition means he is generally worried about trying new things.
- 3 ☐ He gets on with his life, even though he has no arms or legs.

Have you ever thought about what it might be like to live just a single day without being able to use your hands or legs? This is everyday life for Nick Vujicic, who was born without any limbs. However, Nick doesn't let his condition stop him – he regularly takes part in sports, he has traveled all over the world, and he's also happily married with a young child. And unlike many able-bodied people, he can even swim and surf.

Before Nick Vujicic was born, his parents had no idea that he would go on to have any medical problems – none of the medical checkups had shown a problem. However, when he was born, it was clear that his life would be different from that of other babies. Growing up would not be easy. His parents decided to send him to a neighborhood school, where he would use a wheelchair, and where there were people available to assist him. The experience was difficult, but Nick feels it was the best decision his parents could have made because it gave him a sense of independence. Unsurprisingly, when he was in school, he sometimes felt depressed and lonely and was sometimes bullied. But he always had the support of his loyal friends and family, and these people made him determined to overcome many problems. He even went on to study at a university, where he earned a degree in financial planning and real estate.

What surprises many people is just how optimistic Nick can be and how many different things he has managed to do. Much of this is because of his parents. His father put him in the water for the first time when he was 18 months so that Nick would be self-confident enough to swim when he was older. He has one small foot which he can use to help him move around in the water. He is able to operate a computer by using the toe on this foot to type, something he learned to do when he was just six years old. And when he plays golf – yes, he even plays golf – he is able to hold the golf club under his chin.

A big part of Nick's life now is giving motivational talks. He travels around the world and has shared his inspiring story with millions of people, speaking to audiences in packed stadiums. Nick's message is that you should never give up and that people should love themselves even when they fail.

b Read the article again and check (✓) the correct answers.

- 1 Nick's parents knew he would be born without arms and legs.
a ☐ true b ☒ false c ☐ doesn't say
- 2 Nick was sometimes unhappy when he was in school.
a ☐ true b ☐ false c ☐ doesn't say
- 3 Nick could swim when he was just 18 months old.
a ☐ true b ☐ false c ☐ doesn't say
- 4 Nick uses a mouse to operate a computer.
a ☐ true b ☐ false c ☐ doesn't say
- 5 Nick uses the toe on his foot to play a sport.
a ☐ true b ☐ false c ☐ doesn't say
- 6 The stadiums where Nick speaks are full.
a ☐ true b ☐ false c ☐ doesn't say

c Write a paragraph about an outstanding person you know or have heard about who has helped others. Remember to include:

- what the person does and why you are impressed by this
- any difficulties the person has had in their life
- how the person has helped other people.

