

Practical English

Verb forms, etc.

A few exercises prepared by Neil Minkley
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Verb forms, etc. (1-1)

L'eau bout à 100 °C (212 °F). *

* dans des conditions atmosphériques normales (au niveau de la mer)

Verb forms, etc. (1-2)

L'eau bout à 100 °C (212 °F). *

Water boils at 100 °C (212 °F). *

* dans des conditions atmosphériques normales (au niveau de la mer)

* under standard atmospheric conditions (at sea level)

general fact, established truth >> simple present

~~the~~ water in general

Verb forms, etc. (2-2)

- Est-ce que l'eau distillée bout ? (*peut bouillir*)
- Does distilled water boil?
- Can distilled water boil?

- Oui, elle le peut !
- Yes, it can!

general fact, established truth >> simple present

~~the~~ distilled water in general

Verb forms, etc. (3-1)

Est-ce que l'eau (dans la bouilloire) bout ?
(est en train de bouillir)

Verb forms, etc. (3-2)

Est-ce que l'eau (dans la bouilloire) bout ?
(*est en train de bouillir*)

Is the water (in the kettle) boiling?

action in progress >> present progressive

the water in the kettle, not water in general

Verb forms, etc. (4-1)

- Que faites-vous habituellement avant que l'eau ne bouille ?**

- Je mets des sachets de thé dans la théière.**

Verb forms, etc. (4-2)

- Que faites-vous habituellement avant que l'eau ne bouille ?
- **What do you usually do before the water boils?**
- Je mets des sachets de thé dans la théière.
- **I put tea bags into the teapot.**

habit, repeated action >> simple present

the water in the teapot, not water in general

avant que + subjonctif



before + indicative

Verb forms, etc. (5-1)

- Qu'est-ce que vous êtes en train de faire ?**

- Je mets des sachets de thé dans la théière.**

Verb forms, etc. (5-2)

- Qu'est-ce que vous êtes en train de faire ?
- What are you doing?
- Je mets des sachets de thé dans la théière.
- I am putting tea bags into the teapot.

action in progress >> present progressive

Verb forms, etc. (6-1)

L'eau bouillira dans quelques secondes.

Verb forms, etc. (6-2)

L'eau bouillira dans quelques secondes.

The water will boil in a few seconds.

The water will be boiling in a few seconds.

action in the future:

✓ focus = the action itself >> simple future

✓ focus = progress of action >> future progressive

Verb forms, etc. (7-1)

Appelez-moi quand l'eau commencera à bouillir.

Verb forms, etc. (7-2)

Appelez-moi quand l'eau commencera à bouillir.

Call me when the water starts to boil.

Call me when the water starts boiling.

use of "when" in reference to future action >> present

Verb forms, etc. (8-1)

– Est-ce que l'eau a déjà bouilli ?

– Oui, elle a déjà bouilli.

Verb forms, etc. (8-2)

- Est-ce que l'eau a déjà bouilli ?
- Has the water boiled yet?
- Oui, elle a déjà bouilli.
- Yes, it has already boiled.

action accomplished, related to the present
>> present perfect

Verb forms, etc. (9-1)

L'eau bout depuis deux minutes.

Verb forms, etc. (9-2)

L'eau bout depuis deux minutes.

The water has boiled for two minutes.

The water has been boiling for two minutes.

action started in the past and still in progress:

✓ focus = the action itself >> present perfect

✓ focus = progress of action >> pres't perfect progressive

duration >> for

Verb forms, etc. (10-1)

L'eau a commencé à bouillir il y a deux minutes.

Verb forms, etc. (10-2)

L'eau a commencé à bouillir il y a deux minutes.

The water started to boil two minutes ago.

The water started boiling two minutes ago.

event that occurred in the past >> simple past

some length of time before now >> ago

Verb forms, etc. (11-1)

L'eau bout depuis midi/minuit moins dix.

Verb forms, etc. (11-2)

L'eau bout depuis midi/minuit moins dix.

The water has boiled since ten to twelve. *

The water has been boiling since ten to twelve. *

action started in the past and still in progress:

✓ focus = the action itself >> present perfect

✓ focus = progress of action >> pres't perfect progressive

reference to the date/time of past event >> since

✓ midday/noon = 12?m

*

✓ midnight = 12?m

Verb forms, etc. (11-3)

L'eau bout depuis midi/minuit moins dix.

The water has boiled since ten to twelve. *

The water has been boiling since ten to twelve. *

action started in the past and still in progress:

✓ focus = the action itself >> present perfect

✓ focus = progress of action >> pres't perfect progressive

reference to the date/time of past event >> since

✓ midday/noon = 12pm

*

✓ midnight = 12am

Verb forms, etc. (12-1)

- Qu'avez-vous fait lorsque l'eau a commencé à bouillir ?

- J'ai éteint le gaz !

Verb forms, etc. (12-2)

- Qu'avez-vous fait lorsque l'eau a commencé à bouillir ?
- What did you do when the water started to boil?
- J'ai fermé le gaz !
- I turned off the gas!

action accomplished in the past >> simple past

the gas in the cooker, not gas in general

Verb forms, etc. (13-1)

Que faisiez-vous pendant que l'eau bouillait ?

Verb forms, etc. (13-2)

Que faisiez-vous pendant que l'eau bouillait ?

What were you doing while the water was boiling?

action in progress in the past >> past progressive

Verb forms, etc. (14-1)

J'étais au téléphone !

Je discutais de la biodiversité !

Verb forms, etc. (14-2)

J'étais au téléphone !

I was on the phone!

Je discutais de la biodiversité !

I was discussing biodiversity!

I was talking about biodiversity!

action in progress in the past >> past progressive

to be >> (generally) non-progressive!

the biodiversity in general

Verb forms, etc. (15-1)

Je fais des études en Biodiversité, Territoire et Environnement.

Verb forms, etc. (15-2)

Je fais des études en Biodiversité, Territoire et Environnement.

I study Biodiversity, Territory & Environment.

I am studying...

(I am a student in...)

action in the present:

- ✓ focus = the action itself, considered as a general fact
>> simple present
- ✓ focus = progress of action, considered to be temporary
>> present progressive

Verb forms, etc. (16-1)

Je mène actuellement une étude terrain de la biodiversité, du territoire et de l'environnement en Corse.

Verb forms, etc. (16-2)

Je mène actuellement une étude terrain de la biodiversité, du territoire et de l'environnement en Corse.

I'm currently conducting a field study of the biodiversity, the territory and the environment in Corsica.

action in progress >> present progressive

... specific to Corsica >> the biodiversity, etc.

Verb forms, etc. (17-1)

J'ai choisi d'étudier la biodiversité, etc. à Paris 1.

Verb forms, etc. (17-2)

J'ai choisi d'étudier la biodiversité, etc. à Paris 1.

I chose to study biodiversity, etc. at the University of Paris (Panthéon-Sorbonne).

(...at Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne University.)

I have chosen to study biodiversity...

action in the past:

- ✓ without focus on relation to the present >> simple past
- ✓ focus on relation to the present >> present perfect

Verb forms, etc. (18-1)

La décisionnaire a fait son choix.

Verb forms, etc. (18-2)

La décisionnaire a fait son choix.

The decision-maker made her choice.

The decision-maker has made her choice.

event in the past:

- ✓ without focus on relation to the present >> simple past
- ✓ focus on relation to the present >> present perfect

Verb forms, etc. (19-1)

J'ai fait mon choix il y a six mois.

Verb forms, etc. (19-2)

J'ai fait mon choix il y a six mois.

I made my choice six months ago.

event that occurred in the past >> simple past

event in the past some length of time before now >> ago

Verb forms, etc. (20-1)

J'étudie la biodiversité depuis plus de deux mois maintenant.

Verb forms, etc. (20-2)

J'étudie la biodiversité depuis plus de deux mois maintenant.

I have studied biodiversity for more than two months now.

I have been studying biodiversity...

action started in the past and still in progress:

✓ focus = the action itself >> present perfect

✓ focus = progress of action >> pres't perfect progressive

duration >> for

Verb forms, etc. (21-1)

Il y a deux ans, j'ai étudié la biodiversité pendant trois mois.

Verb forms, etc. (21-2)

Il y a deux ans, j'ai étudié la biodiversité pendant trois mois.

Two years ago, I studied biodiversity for three months.

action accomplished in the past >> simple past

action in the past some length of time before now >> ago

duration >> for

Verb forms, etc. (22-1)

J'ai suivi un cours d'écologie l'année dernière.

Verb forms, etc. (22-2)

J'ai suivi un cours d'écologie l'année dernière.

I took a course in ecology last year.

(I attended a course...)

action accomplished in the past >> simple past

Verb forms, etc. (23-1)

J'ai beaucoup lu sur les écosystèmes.

Verb forms, etc. (23-2)

J'ai beaucoup lu sur les écosystèmes.

I read a lot about ecosystems.

I have read a lot...

I have been reading a lot...

action in the past with possible relation to the present:

- ✓ without focus on relation to the present >> simple past
- ✓ focus on relation to the present >> present perfect
- ✓ focus on relation to the present and progress of action
>> present perfect progressive

Verb forms, etc. (24-1)

J'ai beaucoup lu sur les écosystèmes il y a deux ans.

Verb forms, etc. (24-2)

J'ai beaucoup lu sur les écosystèmes il y a deux ans.

I read a lot about ecosystems two years ago.

action accomplished in the past >> simple past

action in the past some length of time before now >> ago

Verb forms, etc. (25-1)

J'ai beaucoup lu sur les écosystèmes depuis le début septembre.

Verb forms, etc. (25-2)

J'ai beaucoup lu sur les écosystèmes depuis le début septembre.

I have read a lot about ecosystems since the beginning of September.

I have been reading a lot about ecosystemss since...

action started in the past and still in progress:

- ✓ focus = the action itself >> present perfect
- ✓ focus = progress of action >> pres't perfect progressive

reference to date/time of past event >> since

Verb forms, etc. (26-1)

À cette époque-ci l'année dernière, j'ai beaucoup lu sur les questions environnementales.

À cette époque-ci l'année dernière, je lisais beaucoup sur les questions environnementales.

Verb forms, etc. (26-2)

À cette époque-ci l'année dernière, j'ai beaucoup lu sur les questions environnementales.

At this time last year, I read a lot about environmental issues.

À cette époque-ci l'année dernière, je lisais beaucoup sur les questions environnementales.

At this time last year, I was reading a lot about...

action in the past with no relation to the present:

- ✓ focus on the action itself >> simple past
- ✓ focus on progress of action >> pres't perf't progressive

Verb forms, etc. (27-1)

Je suis certain(e) que je vais beaucoup apprendre sur l'environnement pendant cette année universitaire.

Verb forms, etc. (27-2)

Je suis certain(e) que je vais beaucoup apprendre sur l'environnement pendant cette année universitaire.

I am certain (that) I will learn a lot about the environment during this academic year.

I am certain (that) I will be learning a lot...

(I am certain (that) I am going to learn a lot...)

action in the future:

✓ focus = the action itself >> simple future

✓ focus = progress of action >> future progressive

Verb forms, etc. (28-1)

J'étudiais l'histoire du Moyen Âge quand je me suis soudain rendu compte que c'était la politique environnementale qui m'intéressait réellement.

Verb forms, etc. (28-2)

J'étudiais l'histoire du Moyen Âge quand je me suis soudain rendu compte que c'était la politique environnementale qui m'intéressait réellement.

I was studying the history of the Middle Ages when I suddenly realized it was environmental policy that really interested me.

action in progress in the past >> past progressive

event/fact in the past >> simple past

Verb forms, etc. (29-1)

J'avais étudié l'histoire du Moyen Âge depuis trois ans quand j'ai décidé de retourner vers le futur.

Verb forms, etc. (29-2)

J'avais étudié l'histoire du Moyen Âge depuis trois ans quand j'ai décidé de retourner vers le futur.

I had studied the history of the Middle Ages for three years when I decided to return to the future.

I had been studying the history of...

action in the past, in progress at the time of a past event:

✓ focus = the action itself >> past perfect

✓ focus = progress of action >> past perfect progressive

event in the past >> simple past

duration >> for

Verb forms, etc. (30-1)

Bien qu'il ait beaucoup lu sur l'ingénierie écologique, il lui reste beaucoup à apprendre.

Verb forms, etc. (30-2)

Bien qu'il ait beaucoup lu sur l'ingénierie écologique, il lui reste beaucoup à apprendre.

Although he has read a lot about ecological engineering, he has much left to learn.

Although he has been reading a lot about...

bien que + subjonctif



although + indicative

action in the past related to the present/future:

- ✓ focus on the action itself >> present perfect
- ✓ focus on progress of action >> pres't perf't progressive

Verb forms, etc. (31-1)

Je suggère qu'il lise ce livre-ci sur la mesure de l'empreinte carbone.

Verb forms, etc. (31-2)

Je suggère qu'il lise ce livre-ci sur la mesure de l'empreinte carbone.

I suggest (that) he read this book about the measurement of the carbon footprint. (a)

I suggest (that) he should read this book... (b)

I suggest (that) he reads this book... (c)

suggérer que + subjonctif → suggest (that) + subjunctive

a: GB (formal) & US

b: GB (less formal)

c: GB (common)

Verb forms, etc. (32-1)

Si j'étais vous, je lirais ce livre-là.

Verb forms, etc. (32-2)

Si j'étais vous, je lirais ce livre-là.

If I were you, I would read that book.

subjunctive expression!

conditional

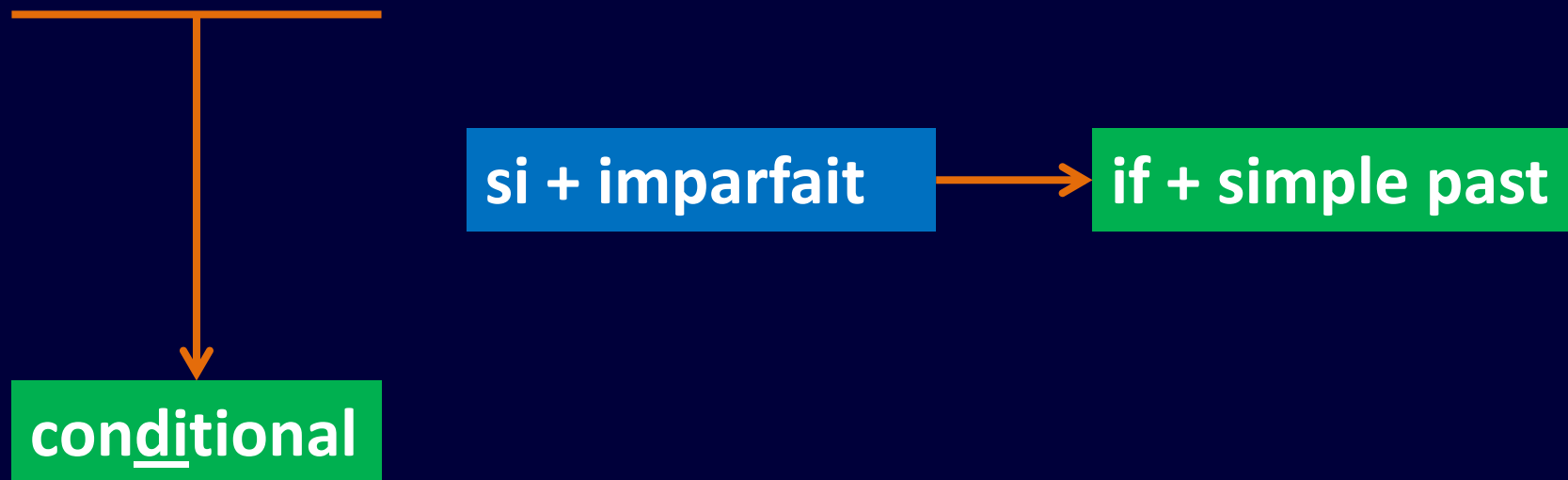
Verb forms, etc. (33-1)

Si je passais plus de temps à écrire et parler en anglais, je ferais de gros progrès. 😊

Verb forms, etc. (33-2)

Si je passais plus de temps à écrire et parler en anglais, je ferais de gros progrès. 😊

If I spent more time writing and speaking English, I would make great progress. 😊



More examples and explanations



anglais-pratique.fr/index.php/rubriques/fondements/227-verbes-anglais-formes



anglais-pratique.fr/index.php/rubriques/fondements/58-ago-during-for-since