

B1 —

Changes in society

Focus: past—and present [simple, continuous, perfect simple, and perfect continuous] tense aspects

What are your thoughts?

1. Do you think society has changed a lot in the last 20 years?
2. What behaviours from young people surprise or annoy you?
3. Do you think older generations were more polite? Why or why not?

***** Please use the past and present tenses *****



Tense aspects in use

1. **Present Simple:** Young people often ignore traditional rules of politeness.
2. **Past Simple:** When I was a child, we always greeted our neighbours.
3. **Present Continuous:** Right now, more and more people are taking selfies in public spaces.
4. **Past Continuous:** Last week, I was walking through the park when two teenagers shouted at an old man.
5. **Present Perfect Simple:** Many people have complained about the loss of respect in society.
6. **Past Perfect Simple:** By the time she turned 70, she had seen so many changes in social behavior.
7. **Present Perfect Continuous:** We have been talking about social changes for more than 30 minutes.
8. **Past Perfect Continuous:** He had been hoping for more respect before the new generation came along.

Time phrases reference page

1. **Present Simple:**
always, usually, often, sometimes,
every day, on weekends
2. **Past Simple:**
yesterday, last week, two years ago, in
2010, when I was a child
3. **Present Continuous:**
now, right now, currently, at the
moment, these days
4. **Past Continuous:**
while, when, as, at that moment,
yesterday at 5 p.m.
5. **Present Perfect Simple:**
already, yet, just, ever, never, so far,
recently, lately
6. **Past Perfect Simple:**
by the time, already, before, after
7. **Present Perfect Continuous:**
for, since, how long, all day, lately,
recently
8. **Past Perfect Continuous:**
for, since, before, until

Speaking practice

1. Have you ever experienced disrespect from younger people? What happened?
2. Do you think people are becoming more selfish, or just more modern?
3. How has technology changed people's behavior in your country?



A Hopeless Romantic in a Changing World

“Modern Love and Modern Labels”

Martin had always thought of himself as a hopeless romantic. He believed in flowers, handwritten notes, and long conversations over coffee. In the past, women appreciated his gestures, and he often felt respected for his sincerity.

But recently, things have changed. He has been going on dates for the last six months, and many of the women he has met have already described most men as “toxic.” Last week, while he was telling a story about his parents’ marriage, his date interrupted and accused him of being “old-fashioned.” By the end of the evening, he had been wondering whether romance even existed anymore.

Martin knows that society has changed, but he still hopes that somewhere, there is a person who values kindness and respect. After all, he has been searching for love his whole life, and he is not ready to give up yet.



Reading comprehension questions



1. What kind of man is Martin?
2. How did women in the past react to his gestures?
3. How long has Martin been going on dates recently?
4. What happened during his date last week?
5. How does Martin feel about the future of romance?

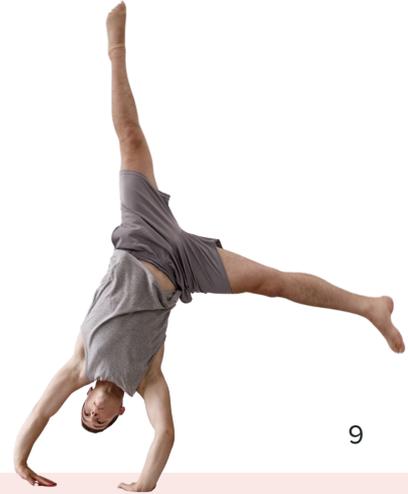
Gap fill — mixed tenses

1. Young people _____ (not / say) “thank you” as often as before.
2. Last year, my grandmother _____ (tell) me about how polite children were in her time.
3. Look! That man _____ (take) another selfie in the restaurant.
4. While I _____ (walk) to school yesterday, I saw a boy pushing an old man.
5. Many people _____ (complain) about social behavior in the last ten years.
6. By the time the teacher arrived, the students _____ (already / leave).
7. We _____ (discuss) this problem for more than half an hour.
8. She was upset because she _____ (wait) for him for over an hour.

Sentence transformation

Rewrite the sentence using the tense given in brackets.

1. People open doors for each other in the past. (*Past Simple*)
2. Right now, many people use their phones while crossing the street. (*Present Continuous*)
3. She finished her dinner before he arrived. (*Past Perfect*)
4. I started learning English three years ago and I'm still learning. (*Present Perfect Continuous*)



Pick the correct time phrase

1. Young people usually ignore traditional rules of politeness _____
(*yesterday / every day / last week*).
2. My grandmother told me stories about respect _____
(*two years ago / lately / now*).
3. Look! That man is taking another selfie in the restaurant
_____ (*at the moment / last year / every Sunday*).
4. While I _____ (walk) to school _____ (*yesterday at
8 a.m. / every Monday / right now*), I saw a boy pushing an
old man.



Pick the correct time phrase

5. Many people have complained about social behavior _____ (*in the last ten years / in 1990 / yesterday at 5 p.m.*).
6. By the time the teacher arrived, the students had already left _____ (*before / now / every day*).
7. We have been discussing this problem _____ (*since 9 o'clock / yesterday evening / last year at 5 p.m.*).
8. She was upset because she had been waiting for him _____ (*for over an hour / yesterday at 7 / right now*).





Thank you for your support.

YouTube: @elucidatedenglish