

Someone's been busy!

B1 · Teens and adults · 50-60 minutes

A friend is coming to stay. Find at least five changes in the room.



EARLIER TODAY



NOW

1. Say what has changed

Take turns. Point to a change and say what someone has done. Ask one question the pictures cannot answer.

Start here: Someone has opened the window. The room feels fresher now.

Ask: Who opened it? When did they open it?

Help: I can see... / It looks as if... / We cannot tell whether...

Which job makes the biggest difference? Which job would you check next? Explain why.

A quick grammar reminder

An update connected to now: Someone **has hung** the picture. It is on the wall now.

A finished past detail: Alex **hung** it at four. **When did** Alex **hang** it?

Form: have/has + past participle · past form · did + base verb

Use the past simple with a finished time such as yesterday or at four.

An update, then the story

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It is 4:30 p.m. Read the messages. Is everything ready for Kim?

Jo & Alex · Messages · 4:30 p.m.

Jo: Kim gets here at six. Have you got the room ready?

Alex: I've opened the box and unrolled the rug. I've hung the picture too.

Jo: Great! When did you hang it?

Alex: At four. I moved the plant at quarter past four and opened the window ten minutes ago.

Jo: It looks much better. Have you arranged the cushions?

Alex: Yes, I have. But I haven't checked the bathroom yet.

2. Find the evidence

- Which three jobs does Alex report in the first reply?
- Which three actions have a finished past-time detail?
- What is still unchecked? Can the living-room picture answer that?

3. Complete the update and the question

1. I _____ the plant. It is on the windowsill now. **(move: present perfect)**
When _____ you _____ it? **(move)** At quarter past four.

2. Alex _____ the window, so the room feels fresher. **(open: present perfect)**
When _____ he _____ it? **(open)** Ten minutes ago.

Now speak: Check your answers. Read the messages aloud in pairs. Then cover them. Give two updates and ask about the past details. Invent one new job and swap roles.

Make the follow-up useful

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Give or check an update: I've already... / We haven't... yet. / Have you... ?

Ask about the past: When did you... ? / Where did you put... ? / What happened?

Agree an action: So we still need to... / I'll... / Could you... ?

4. Match, complete, ask

Match 1-4 to A-D. Complete each past-simple verb. Then practise: A gives an update; B asks a question; A gives the matching detail. Swap roles.

1. I've found the spare key. Kim can let herself in.
2. I've bought some milk. We can offer Kim breakfast.
3. I've cleaned the table. We can eat there.
4. I've sent Kim the address. She knows where to come.

- A. I _____ it with a cloth after lunch. (wipe)
- B. I _____ it in the small shop yesterday. (buy)
- C. I _____ it in the kitchen drawer yesterday. (find)
- D. I _____ her a message at four. (send)

5. Fix it, then explain why it matters

We have bought the milk yesterday.

Keep yesterday and correct the sentence. Then give a separate present-perfect update explaining why the milk is useful now.

Optional homework: a meeting is about to begin

Complete the pairs. Add one update-and-detail pair of your own.

1. I _____ the agenda, so everyone has a copy. (send: present perfect)
2. I _____ it yesterday. (send: past simple)
3. _____ the room? (you / book: present perfect question)
4. When _____ it? (you / book: past simple question)

Tell me what happened

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Use this page after the phone call. Choose a few questions to explore deeply.
Take turns. Give examples and ask follow-up questions. You may invent an answer or pass.

1. Have you prepared for a visitor recently?

What did you do first?

2. What have you changed in your home or workspace?

Why did you change it?

3. Have you ever sent someone the wrong information?

How did you sort it out?

4. Have you finished a job and then had to do it again?

What changed?

5. Have you lost anything important?

Where did you last see it?

6. Have you helped organise an event?

What was your job?

7. What useful thing have you bought recently?

Why did you choose it?

8. Have your plans changed at the last minute?

What happened?

9. Have you learnt a useful practical skill?

Who taught you, or how did you learn?

10. Have you ever borrowed something that saved the day?

What did you need it for?

11. What have you done this week that you feel pleased about?

What made it go well?

12. Have you found something you thought was lost?

Where was it?

Keep it going: When was that? / What did you do next? / How did you feel?

To finish: Tell your partner one interesting thing you learnt about them.