

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

B1 · Teens and adults · 50-60 minutes

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

B1 · Teens and adults · 50-60 minutes

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

B1 · Teens and adults · 50-60 minutes

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.

The guest is nearly here

B1 · Teens and adults · 50-60 minutes

It is 5:40 p.m. You are at the shop. Keep this page private.

Kim · New message

I'll reach the flat at **6:05**, five minutes later than planned. I'm bringing my dog. Have you got **oat milk** for breakfast and a **mat** for the dog?

What you have done

You **bought oat milk yesterday** and left it in the fridge.

You **sent Kim the address and gate code 3812 at 4:50**.

You have not prepared a dog mat. Rain is coming; you want the living-room window closed.

1. Call Alex. Explain Kim's new arrival time and what she needs.

2. Check before you buy. Ask about the dog mat, window and gate code. Tell Alex what you have done. Give past details when asked.

3. Agree two final jobs. Decide who will do each job. What can you tell Kim now?

Useful phrases

Have you... yet? / I've already... / When did you... ?

Which code did you send? / So we still need to... / I'll...

4. Give Kim an accurate update

Include one completed job, one past detail and your plan. Do not describe a promised job as already done. Practise once; after feedback, try again with your teacher's new message.

Job 1: _____ Who? _____

Job 2: _____ Who? _____

The guest is nearly here

B1 · Teens and adults · 50-60 minutes

It is 5:40 p.m. You are at home. Keep this page private.

BUILDING NOTICE

Gate code changed

5:00 p.m. today

The new code is **4526**.

The old code, 3812, no longer works.

Building manager

What you know

You still expect Kim at **six**. You have not sent her the new code.

You **put a dog mat beside the sofa at 5:10**, ready for any visiting dog.

The living-room window is **still open**. You have not bought oat milk. You do not know what Jo has bought or which code Jo sent.

1. Answer Jo's call. Ask about Kim's arrival, breakfast needs and the message Jo sent.

2. Exchange your news. Explain the code, mat and window. Ask what Jo has already done. Which completed job needs doing again?

3. Agree two final jobs. Decide who will do each job. What can you tell Kim now?

Useful phrases

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