

THE LOST ISLAND – ESCAPE ROOM

Tenses in practice - verb forms in context

B1/B2

The whole escape room is designed to give students extra practice of four basic tenses Present Simple, Present Continuous, Past Simple and Past Continuous. The set gives students the context for practice and shows them how they can be used. The set includes many text activities for students to complete as well as background story that students need to follow while going through the escape room. When students have completed the activity, ask them to report back or write a short summary of the story in order to reinforce the use of the verbs.

The story and the scenario

You were on a boat trip when a terrible storm hit, and your boat crashed on a desert island! The only way to escape is to build a raft and send a signal for rescue. To do this, you must find missing raft pieces, collect useful objects, and solve language challenges before nightfall!

Stranded on a Desert Island

The boat trip was supposed to be fun and relaxing. The sun was shining, and the sea was calm. But suddenly, dark clouds covered the sky. The wind became strong, and huge waves crashed against the boat. The storm was too powerful. You tried to hold on, but the boat tipped over, and everything went dark...

When you woke up, you were lying on a sandy beach. Pieces of the broken boat were everywhere. You looked around—there were no houses, no people, just trees and the sound of the ocean. You were on a desert island!

You need to escape before nightfall. The only way is to build a raft and send a signal for rescue. But some raft pieces are missing! You must explore the island, find useful objects, and solve language challenges to collect everything you need.

Time is running out. Can you and your team escape before it gets dark?

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Task 1: Message in a bottle

The Message in a Bottle (Present Simple / Present Continuous)

Solve a riddle and complete a diary entry to receive a raft piece.

Riddle to Find the Bottle:

"I sit on the sand, but I'm not a rock. I'm often tossed by the waves. Inside me, you might find a note, if only you are brave."

The Diary Entry

Complete the missing verbs using present simple or present continuous:

1. Every day, the sun ___ (rise) early, but right now, it ___ (set).
2. The waves ___ (crash) on the shore as I sit on a rock.
3. Usually, I ___ (fish) in the morning, but today I ___ (build) a shelter.
4. The birds ___ (sing) in the trees while the monkeys ___ (jump) from branch to branch.
5. I ___ (live) on this island alone, but I ___ (hope) to escape soon.
6. Right now, the wind ___ (blow) stronger, and the clouds ___ (get) darker.
7. Every evening, I ___ (collect) firewood before it gets dark.
8. The waves ___ (carry) strange objects to the shore today.
9. I ___ (listen) carefully because sometimes I ___ (hear) strange sounds at night.

Task 2: The Fisherman's Hut

But you notice something else inside the bottle—a small, rolled-up note. You carefully unroll it and read the faded words:

"If you seek the raft's lost parts,

Follow the clues, use your smarts.

Find a shelter, old but wise,

Where secrets hide before your eyes.

Look for walls that tell the past,

And solve the puzzle to leave at last."

Look around, can you see some footprints in the sand! Could this lead to the old fisherman's hut? There's only one way to find out...

SS pick the words only connected with the island.

seashell, fishing net, campfire, palm tree, hut, waterfall, coconut / **compass, oar, anchor** - words that do not fit.

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The Old Fisherman's Note (Past Simple / Past Continuous)

Fill in the blanks to open a locked chest.

One evening, while I ___ (walk) along the beach, I ___ (see) something strange in the water. It ___ (shine) brightly, but when I ___ (get) closer, it ___ (disappear). While I ___ (fish) yesterday, a storm suddenly ___ (begin). The waves ___ (crash) against my hut as I ___ (try) to find shelter. I never ___ (find) out what that light was... but maybe you will. I ___ (collect) coconuts when I ___ (hear) a noise behind me. The fire ___ (burn) brightly when the rain suddenly ___ (start). I ___ (wake up) because something ___ (move) outside my shelter. While I ___ (look for) food, I ___ (trip) over a hidden object in the sand. The last time I ___ (see) another person was years ago, when a ship ___ (pass) by.

After finishing the exercise the code appears to unlock the chest: 63182

Task 3: Map Clue

Mixed Tenses, correct verbs to collect the map pieces

1. Every morning, the sun is rising over the hills.
2. Yesterday, we search for food when a wild animal appear.
3. While Tom make a fire, I go to get water.
4. The storm start suddenly while we climb a tree.
5. We find a cave when we can hide from the storm.
6. Right now, the monkeys steal our food! Look at them!

Correct Answers:

1. Every morning, the sun rises over the hills.
2. Yesterday, we were searching for food when a wild animal appeared.
3. While Tom was making a fire, I went to get water.
4. The storm started suddenly while we were climbing a tree.
5. We found a cave where we could hide from the storm.
6. Right now, the monkeys are stealing our food!

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Task 4: The Signal Fire

Scattered Sentences to Organize:

- First, we gather dry branches.
- While Anna was collecting dry leaves, Jake was looking for wood.
- Tom was searching for matches when we heard a rustling sound behind us.
- Suddenly, we hear a strange noise in the jungle.
- As I was setting up the fire, a monkey stole our food!
- When the fire started, we all cheered.
- The wind blew, making it harder to keep the fire going.
- After several tries, we finally managed to light a small flame.
- Soon, smoke started rising into the sky.
- When the fire started, we all cheered.
- After a few days, we saw a distant ship coming toward the island!

After completing the task, the ss must light the fire to go to the next challenge.

Task 5

The Rescue Signal

Solve three different language challenges to send the correct rescue signal and escape the island.

Challenge 1: Verb Categorization

Students receive 15 verbs in different tenses and must sort them into four categories:

- Present Simple
- Present Continuous
- Past Simple
- Past Continuous

Example verbs:

- finds, is waiting, left, were running, appears, was watching, started, is walking, saw, are looking, shines, was building, cries, was searching, walks, went,

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Challenge 2: Gap-Fill Rescue Note

A distress message using the correct verb tenses.

“Help! We ___ (be) stuck on this island for days. Right now, we ___ (wait) on the beach, hoping someone ___ (see) our signal. Yesterday, we ___ (try) to light a fire, but while we ___ (look) for dry wood, it ___ (start) raining.

When we ___ (wake up) this morning, the sky ___ (be) clear, so we ___ (decide) to send this message. Please hurry! A storm ___ (come)! We ___ (watch) the clouds get darker.”

Challenge 3: Arrange in order

- The storm is coming fast.
- We are lighting a fire.
- Help us escape before dark.
- Our raft is almost ready.
- Please send a rescue team!

Once the sentences are in order and the codeword is revealed, the rescue signal is complete, and the team escapes!

Items to collect:

The raft pieces - on completing every challenge the students receive a piece of a raft that they have to put together at the end.



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