

- A.** In this passage the children's book writer, Grant R. Philips, explains how he got started as a writer. Read it and write the correct past form: simple past or past continuous.

How my career as a writer started

I hated reading while I (1) (grow) up. I did all I could to avoid books. Later I (2) (learn) that during my childhood I (3) (suffer) from a reading comprehension disability. It (4) (be neg.) until 7th grade that things changed. My English teacher (5) (give) me Hinton's *Outsiders* to read. She explained that Hinton was still going to school while she (6) (write) the book. The story amazed me and I (7) (think) about it for days after reading it. I could not wait to read another book. (8) (understand neg.), what was happening to me as I started to buy at least one book a month. At the age of thirteen I (9) (know) that I wanted to become a writer so while I (10) (go) high school, I (11) (write) a short story about a busboy (*aiuto cameriere*) who worked at a party house. It was published in the school's annual magazine. My career (12) (begin) right then.

- B.** Complete with the correct simple past or past perfect simple form of the verbs below.

have • speak • meet • leave • grow • celebrate • sail • teach • reach • spend • die • build

The Pilgrim Fathers

In the 17th century King James I did not allow freedom of religion in England as he (1) problems with certain religious groups in the past. During his reign, in September 1620, the Pilgrim Fathers (2) the country aboard the Mayflower to emigrate to America. They (3) America after they (4) the Atlantic for sixtysix days. Before the winter began the Pilgrims (5) (neg.) enough houses and (6) (neg.) enough crops. So by Springtime, half of the hundred Pilgrims (7) of hunger and cold. Fortunately, then, the Pilgrims (8) a friendly member of the Wampanoag, Squanto, who (9) English because he (10) some time in Europe some years before. Squanto (11) the Pilgrims how to hunt and fish and grow corn and beans. Thanks to his help the Pilgrims (12) their first Thanksgiving Day with Squanto.

- C.** Put the verbs into the correct past tense form.

- Yesterday I (be) very busy and I (have neg.) the time to do a lot in the house.
- On Monday I (work) three hours overtime and (come) home very late in the evening.
- The children (play) in the garden when it suddenly (begin) to rain.
- He (watch neg.) TV all afternoon, he only (switch) it on only 5 minutes ago.
- Tomorrow some friends are coming over. I (see neg.) them for ages and they (be / never) to my place before.
- I (clean / not yet) my house so I can't show them around.
- Sorry for being late. I suppose you (wait) long.
- I don't want him to drive my car. I suppose he (drive neg.) a car for ages.