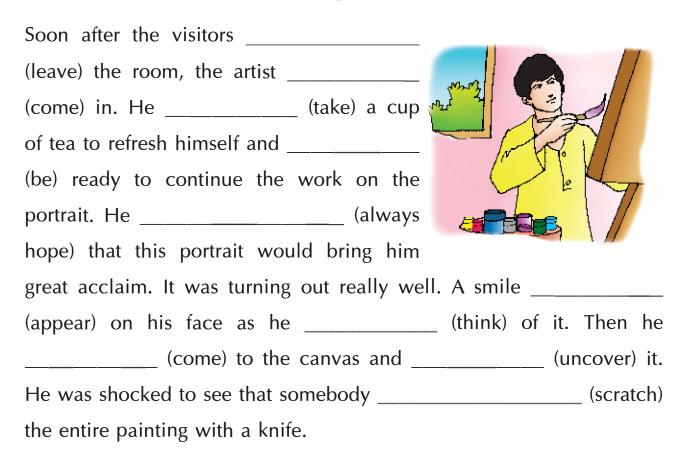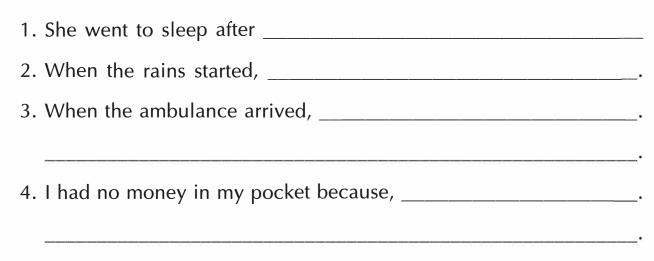# Chapter 8. Verbs: Expressing the Past

Exercise 1. Complete the following sentences using ideas of your own, using the **simple past** or the **past continuous tense**:

Example.   When the doorbell rang, Mr Borde....

When the doorbell rang, Mr Borde was solving a crossword puzzle.

1. When the guests arrived, Mrs Desai _____

_____.

2. When they called me for the meeting, I _____

_____.

3. When I last met Saurav, he _____.

4. I was walking down the street when suddenly _____.

_____.

5. Were you driving fast when _____?

6. Tarun's dress caught fire when _____.

7. What _____ when I rang you up?

8. When our aircraft _____, a hijacker came out of the cockpit.

9. Why _____ when it was raining so heavily outside?

10. How did you manage to get this gas cylinder when _____

_____?

Exercise 2. A. Fill in the blanks with the **simple past** or the **past perfect tense** of the verbs given in the brackets:

Soon after the visitors _____ (leave) the room, the artist _____ (come) in. He _____ (take) a cup of tea to refresh himself and _____ (be) ready to continue the work on the portrait. He _____ (always hope) that this portrait would bring him great acclaim. It was turning out really well. A smile _____ (appear) on his face as he _____ (think) of it. Then he _____ (come) to the canvas and _____ (uncover) it. He was shocked to see that somebody _____ (scratch) the entire painting with a knife.

B. Complete these sentences using your own ideas but using the **past perfect tense**:

1. She went to sleep after _____

2. When the rains started, _____.

3. When the ambulance arrived, _____.

_____.

4. I had no money in my pocket because, _____.

_____.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with **suitable past tense** forms of the verbs given in the brackets:

1. When I arrived, Beenu _____ (wait) for me. She _____ (wait) for at least half an hour and was quite annoyed.

2. Somebody _____ (play) very loud music, so I could not concentrate on my work. I _____ (finish) only a part of my work but I _____ (give) up in despair and _____ (go) to sleep.

3. I _____ (think) of buying a decent music system for two years. I was very happy when Mukul _____ (tell) me he _____ (bring) one for me.

Exercise 4. Complete these sentences with the ideas of your own:

1. Last year I used to _____.

2. During our summer vacation Father used to _____.
   _____.

3. I used to _____ but I am no more interested in them.

4. On Sundays our whole family used to _____.
   _____.

5. Before the electric bulb was invented, people used to _____
   _____.

6. _____ , before the postal system was introduced.

7. When I was a little girl, my grandmother _____
   _____.