

6 Worksheet on Grammar – Answer Key

1 TENSES: PAST SIMPLE AND PRESENT PERFECT

1. Read the text *Our Country* by Josiah Strong and explain briefly why the author uses the past simple or present perfect in the following examples taken from this text:

a) »Since prehistoric times, populations have moved steadily westward [...].« (ll. 1f.)

→ present perfect (»have moved«): signal word "since", situation beginning in the past

(»Since prehistoric times«) and leading up to the present (populations still move westward)

b) »And following their migrations, the course of empire [...] has westward taken its way.« (ll. 3-5)

→ present perfect (»has [...] taken«): situation beginning in the past and leading up to the present (»course of the empire« still takes its way westward)

c) »The world's scepter passed from Persia to Greece, from Greece to Italy, from Italy to Great Britain [...].« (ll. 5-7)

→ past simple (»passed«): situations that took place thousands of years ago

d) »[...] the star in the East which guided the three kings with their treasures westward until at length it stood still over the cradle of the young Christ [...].« (ll. 11-13)

→ past simple (»guided«, »stood«): according to Christian legend, the situation took place approximately 2000 years ago

e) »[...] so the star of empire [...] has ever beckoned the wealth and power of the nations westward [...].« (ll. 13-15)

→ present perfect (»has ever beckoned«): signal word "ever", situation beginning in the past and leading up to the present (»the star of the empire« still »beckons the wealth and power of the nations westward«)

2. Present perfect or past simple? Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb.

- a) Josiah Strong wrote the text *Our Country* in 1885.
- b) He claims that populations have advanced westward for thousands of years.
- c) Moreover, he refers to the three kings who followed the star in the east.
- d) Josiah maintains that »civil liberty« and »pure *spiritual* Christianity« have constantly improved humankind.
- e) He believes that the Anglo-Saxons have been superior since Great Britain became a world power.

2 IF-CLAUSES

1. Mark all *if*-clauses in James Truslow Adams' text *The American Dream*.

- cf. task 2 below

2. For each clause, determine whether it describes an open or a hypothetical condition.

[Please note that the clause "if we are to have a rich and full life" (l. 31) can be paraphrased as follows: "if we want to have a rich and full life".]

- »If [...] to contribute [...]« (ll. 1f.): hypothetical condition
- »[...] if we are [...] if the American [...] reality« (ll. 31-33): open conditions
- »If the dream [...] fulfilment [...]« (ll. 36f.): open condition
- »If it is to come true [...]« (l. 40): open condition
- »If we are [...] come true« (l. 55): open condition
- »[...] if we are [...] nation [...]« (ll. 65f.): open condition
- »[...] but if we fail [...]« (l. 67): open condition

3. Complete the sentences below:

- a) If the American dream cannot come true, we will become stark realists.
- b) If the American dream had only been a dream of material wealth, not as many people would have immigrated to the US.
- c) If those on top devoted themselves to the "Great Society", that dream would come true.
- d) If you had been able to grow to fullest development as man and woman, you would have lived a happy life.
- e) If you immigrate to the US, you will have a better chance of realizing that dream.

4. Answer the questions in the same way as in (4a).

- a) A: Shall we attend that lecture on the American dream?
B: Yes. (improve our chances of passing the exams) *If we attend that lecture, we will improve our chances of passing the exams.*
- b) A: Did Fiona call you last night?
B: No. (she / come here today) *If she had called me, she would have come here today.*
- c) A: Is Ben good at American history?
B: No. (he / have better grades) *If he were good at American history, he would have better grades.*
- d) A: Are you going to ask the lecturer about our exams?
B: No. (he / give a pompous remark) *If I ask him, he will give a pompous remark.*
- e) A: Did you revise the facts about the American dream before your last exam?
B: No. (I / not have got such a poor result). *If I had revised them, I would not have got such a poor result.*

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