

# 11

## Life's what you make it!

Present Perfect Continuous • Tense review  
Birth, marriage, and death • Good news, bad news

### STARTER

- 1 Ask and answer these questions with a partner.
  - How long have you been learning English?
  - When did you start?
- 2 Ask your teacher the same questions about *teaching* English.

### ANYONE CAN SING!

Present Perfect Continuous and tense review

- 1 How many students in your class think they can sing? How many think they can't? Do a survey and *prove* your answers.
- 2 Choirmaster and TV Presenter, Gareth Malone is passionate about teaching singing. Look quickly through the chart about his life. In what ways has music been part of his life?
- 3 Study the chart more closely and answer the questions.
  - 1 Where and when was Gareth born?
  - 2 When did he move to London?
  - 3 What did he study at university?
  - 4 How long did he work for the LSO?
  - 5 How many awards has he won?
  - 6 How long has he been married?
  - 7 Does he have any children?
  - 8 What is he doing now?
- 4 Match a question about Gareth with an answer.

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1 When did he start playing the piano?       | ___ Three.              |
| 2 How long has he been playing the piano?    | ___ For about 30 years. |
| 3 When did he start teaching singing?        | ___ When he was three.  |
| 4 How long has he been teaching singing?     | ___ Since he was three. |
| 5 When did he make his first TV programme?   | ___ When he was 23.     |
| 6 How long has he been making TV programmes? | ___ Since he was 23.    |
| 7 How many programmes has he made?           | ___ In 2007.            |
| 8 How long has he been living in London?     | ___ Since 2007.         |

**TTT** Listen and check. Ask and answer the questions with a partner.



Gareth Malone –  
an extraordinary  
music teacher



## GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Read the sentences. What tenses are used?  
 He **made** his first TV programme in 2007 and he still **makes** them.  
 He's **been making** programmes since 2007.  
 He's **made** three so far.
- The Present Perfect Continuous expresses an activity that began in the past and still continues.
- 2 Complete the questions. Answer them.  
**How long** \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ TV programmes?  
**How many** programmes \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ so far?
- 3 Remember! State verbs such as *be, have* (possession), *know, love* are rarely used in continuous tenses.  
 I've **known** him for a long time.
- ▶▶ Grammar Reference 11.1 p145

## PRACTICE

### Discussing grammar

- 1 Choose the correct tense.
- How long *have you been waiting* / *are you waiting* here?
  - I *bought* / *have bought* a computer a few weeks ago.
  - Alice *has been looking* / *has looked* for a new job for ages.
  - How long *have you had* / *have you been having* your car?
  - Sue *has been talking* / *has talked* on her phone for ages.
  - She's *been speaking* / *has spoken* to at least six friends.

### Asking questions

- 2 Work with a partner. Read the sentences aloud and reply using a question with *How long ...?* Think of an answer.

How long has she been working there?

Only a couple of months.

- My sister's working in New York.
- I'm training to run the marathon.
- My boss is on holiday.
- I'm learning how to drive.
- I know Maria very well.
- I have the new iPad.

**T 11.2** Listen and compare.

### Talking about you

- 3 Put the verbs in the Present Perfect Simple or Continuous or the Past Simple. Then ask and answer with a partner.
- How long \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to this school?
  - How long \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (use) this book?
  - Which book \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (use) before this one?
  - How long \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (know) your teacher?

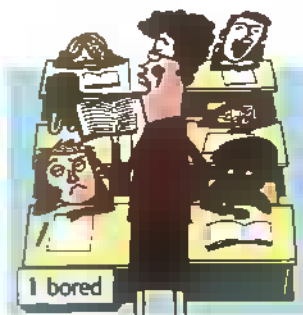
Age	Life event
0	Born in Bournemouth, England. 1975.
3	Started playing the piano.
5 to 10	Bournemouth Grammar School. Started singing in the choir.
10	Moved with family to London.
18 to 21	Studied Drama at the University of East Anglia.
23	Started teaching singing in schools.
26	Started working for the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO). He ran their Youth Choir.
27 to 30	Did a postgraduate course at the Royal Academy of Music in London.
32 to now	Started making programmes for BBC TV. Has made three: The Choir, Boys Don't Sing, Unsung Town.
33	Mamed Becky, an English teacher.
34	Won two TV (BAFTA) awards for The Choir. Stopped working for the LSO.
35	Daughter Esther born.
now	Still teaching music and making more radio and TV programmes. Still living in London.

## What have they been doing?

- 4 Work with a partner. Ask questions with *Why?* about the people in the pictures. Reply with *because* and a reason.

Why are the students bored?

Because the teacher's been talking for hours.



- 5 Complete these sentences in the Present Perfect Simple about the people in exercise 4.

- They haven't understood (not understand) a word.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) every night for the last three weeks
- They're happy because they \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the match.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (plant) six rows of cabbages.
- She \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) two walls already.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) over £200.

**T 11.3** Listen and check.

## SPEAKING

### Tense review

- 1 Look at the pictures of Charlotte Church and read what she says. What kind of music do you think she sings? What do you learn about her family?

## Charlotte Church: the girl with 'the voice of an angel'!



"Me? An angel? Just ask my mum about that!"

"Everyone in my family sings. It's just a natural thing that I haven't thought about much. There was never a time when I wasn't singing. Mum and dad loved classical music and my nan used to sing show tunes."

- 2 Work with a partner.

Student A Look at p152.

Student B Look at p154.

You have different information about Charlotte Church's life and career. Ask and answer questions.

Where was Charlotte Church born?

In Cardiff, in Wales.  
When was she born?

# LISTENING AND SPEAKING

I haven't seen you for ages!

1 Write down the names of some friends you had when you were small. Talk to a partner about them.

- Why were you friends?
- Do you still see them?
- What do you know about their lives now?

## Friends



2 Two old friends have just made contact again via a social networking site. Read their first messages.

- Who are they?
- When were they friends?
- What do you learn about their lives now?

3 **T 11.4** Sophie and Mike finally meet and catch up. Listen to the first part of their conversation. Are these statements about Mike true (✓) or false (X)? Correct the false ones.

- 1 Mike thinks Sophie looks older.
- 2 He's been working in Madrid for eight months.
- 3 The headquarters of his company are in Germany.
- 4 His Spanish girlfriend speaks no English.
- 5 He's been learning Spanish for six months.
- 6 Now he's going to learn Swedish.

4 Look at the second part of the conversation. Read what Sophie says. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who did she marry?
- 2 What and where was her first job?
- 3 Where does she work now?
- 4 What have they been trying to do?
- 5 Why do they need a place of their own?

5 **T 11.5** Complete Mike's questions. Listen and compare. How does the conversation end?

### Roleplay

6 Have a similar conversation with your partner. Pretend you have met again after a few years. Begin like this:

*How great to see you! It's been ages, what have you been doing?*



From **SHansson6@chatchat.com**

Subject: **Hi**

MESSAGE



Are you **Mike Elliot** from Grange School, Bedford, 1996 - 2002? I hope so. I'm Sophie Simpson - yes - "Silly Sophie" (Now **Sophie Hansson**). I've been trying to find information about you for a while. How's life? I'd love to hear your news. My email address is SHansson6@chatchat.com.



From **Mikeyell@gargle.co.uk**

Subject: **What a surprise!**

MESSAGE



Dear **Sophie**,

Great to hear from you! It's been ages since we spoke - our last day at school I believe. What happened to all those promises about keeping in touch? How long have you been Mrs Hansson? I'm not married but I've been going out with a very nice girl for a while, so who knows? I'm working in Madrid at the moment. What have you been doing with your life? We must meet when I'm back in the UK and catch up. **Mike**



Sophie: I got married a year ago to a Swedish guy, Ragnar, Ragnar Hansson.

Mike: \_\_\_\_\_?

S: We met while I was working in Stockholm.

M: \_\_\_\_\_?

S: Well, after university I studied fashion design and my first job was in Sweden, as a buyer for H&M Fashion.

M: \_\_\_\_\_?

S: I worked there for over three years. Ragnar was my boss.

M: \_\_\_\_\_?

S: Yes, we did. My parents came over for the wedding.

M: \_\_\_\_\_?

S: No, we don't. We've both got new jobs in the UK.

M: \_\_\_\_\_?

S: About ten months. We've been trying to buy a flat since we got back.

M: \_\_\_\_\_?

S: With my parents. They're lovely, but it's not great and we're expecting a baby next April, so we really need a place of our own.

M: Oh, congratulations!

## READING AND SPEAKING

### Four generations of Gettys

- 1 Who are the richest families in your country? How did they get their wealth? Describe their lifestyle.
- 2 Look at the pictures and read the introduction. What did you learn about the Getty family?
- 3 Work with a partner. Read about **Jean Paul Getty I**. Correct the information below about him.
  - 1 Jean Paul Getty I made his money from art and antiques.
  - 2 He was one of the world's first millionaires.
  - 3 He built the J. Paul Getty Museum in Guildford, England.
  - 4 He used his house in England to entertain British and American oil friends.
  - 5 He was famous for his generosity.
  - 6 He had five wives and four sons.
- 4 Read about **Jean Paul Getty II**. Answer the questions.
  - 1 Which adjectives best describe his relationship with his father. Give reasons.  

close	distant	loving	cold	cruel	caring
-------	---------	--------	------	-------	--------
  - 2 How many wives did he have? Who were they? How did each marriage end?
  - 3 What did he have in common with his father?
  - 4 Who was kidnapped? Where and why?
  - 5 Why did Paul I refuse to pay the ransom?
  - 6 Why did he change his mind?
  - 7 How much money did Paul II inherit? What did he do with it?
  - 8 Where was he living when he died? Where is he buried?
- 5 Read about **Jean Paul Getty III**. Make a list of the tragic events in his life. Who do you blame? Discuss as a class.
- 6 Read about **Balthazar Getty**. Complete the questions about him. Ask and answer them with a partner.
  - 1 Where/born?
  - 2 What/do?
  - 3 How long/working in films?
  - 4 ... made a lot of films?
  - 5 Which TV series/appearing in?
  - 6 How many children/got?
  - 7 Why/marriage nearly end?

#### What do you think?

- 1 Which Gettys do you think are the most tragic? Which the least? Why?
- 2 What do you predict for Balthazar? Will he break the cycle of tragedy?

#### Project

Research the history of a famous family. Tell the class about it.

# A Tragic Dynasty

The Getty family is one of the richest families in the world, yet it has been plagued by tragedy for generations. The family are proof that money cannot buy happiness.

## Jean Paul Getty I (1892–1976)



Jean Paul Getty I was an American businessman. He founded the *Getty Oil Company*, and in 1957 was named the richest living American. He was one of the world's first billionaires.

A keen collector of art and antiques, he built the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, California. He left over \$661 million to the museum when he died.

In 1957 he was named the richest living American

He moved to England in the 1950s and bought a 16th-century Tudor estate, Sutton Place, near Guildford. This house became the centre of the Getty Oil Company and he used it to entertain his British and Arabian oil friends. Paul I was famous for his meanness. He installed a pay phone in Sutton Place for his guests' use. He died there on June 6th, 1976, aged 83.

Getty married and divorced five times in his life. He had five sons with four of his wives.



## Jean Paul Getty II (1932-2003)

Jean Paul Getty II was the son of Paul I's fourth wife, Ann Rork. His parents divorced when he was three. The young Paul II rarely saw his father, but he wrote to him. His father never answered the letters. He just returned them with the spelling mistakes underlined.

In 1956 he married his childhood sweetheart, Gail Harris and had four children. They moved to Rome where Paul II ran *Getty Oil Italiana*. They were a popular, party-loving couple, but alcohol and drugs took control of their lives. They divorced in 1964. Two years later Paul II married the Dutch model Talitha Pol (pictured). This also ended in disaster. She died of a drug overdose in 1971.

Paul II and Paul I had one thing in common - they were very bad fathers. In 1973 Paul II's eldest son, Jean Paul III,

was kidnapped in Rome, and a ransom of \$17 million demanded. His grandfather refused to pay, saying 'I have 14 other grandchildren'. An envelope arrived from the kidnappers. Inside was Paul III's ear and a note:

*This is Paul's ear. If we don't get some money within ten days, then the other ear will arrive.*

Paul I finally paid \$3 million and his grandson was released.

Paul II moved back to England and in 1997 became a British citizen. He had inherited \$2.5 billion from his father. He donated over \$2.25 million of this to the arts. In 1994, he married his third wife, Victoria Holdsworth. It was Victoria who helped him finally beat his drug addiction. He died in 2003 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

## Jean Paul Getty III (1956-2011)

Jean Paul Getty III spent his childhood in Italy. His parents divorced when he was nine and after that he saw very little of his father. By the age of fifteen he had been expelled from seven schools and he was already taking drugs. Then in July, 1973, when he was sixteen, came the kidnapping. He was imprisoned in a cave in the mountains for five months, until his ear was cut off and his grandfather finally paid a ransom. Paul III never recovered. He returned to a lifestyle of parties and drugs. In 1974, aged eighteen, he married Gisela Zacher, a German model, and moved to Los Angeles. He was just nineteen when his son Balthazar was born.

Paul III was now an alcoholic and drug addict and in 1981, at just twenty-four years old, he took a drug overdose and had a stroke. He was in a coma for six weeks and afterwards he was paralysed, nearly blind and unable to speak. His father, Paul II, like his grandfather before, refused to help. Paul III and Gisela divorced in 1993 and he was looked after by his mother, Gail, until his death on February 5th, 2011. He was fifty-four.



## Balthazar Getty (1975-)

Balthazar Getty, the great-grandson of Jean Paul Getty I, was born in California in 1975. He is an actor and a musician. When he was eleven he was sent to Gordonstoun School, an elite boarding school in Scotland which has educated three generations of the British royal family.

Balthazar has been working in films since he was twelve years old, when he was given the leading role of the schoolboy, Ralph, in the film *Lord of the Flies*. He's made many films since then, including *Young Guns II* and *Natural Born Killers*. He has also been in TV shows. Recently he has been appearing in the hit ABC series, *Brothers and Sisters*.

Balthazar has also worked as a fashion model and in 2000, he married fashion designer Rosetta Millington. They have a son, Cassius Paul, and three daughters. The marriage almost ended in 2008 when Balthazar was photographed kissing the actress Sienna Miller. He has since returned to his wife.

So far Balthazar's life has been more successful than his father's and grandfather's. He says: *'As a child, I really didn't know what it was to be a Getty. I had a pretty modest upbringing.'*



# VOCABULARY AND LISTENING

## Birth, marriage, and death

### BIRTH

- 1 Work in small groups. When were you born? Do you know the exact time of your birth?

I was born on March 21st, 1991 at 2.40 in the morning.

- 2 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences with a word from the box.

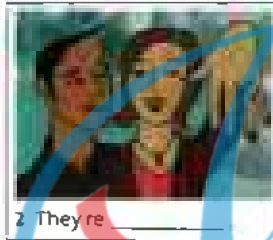
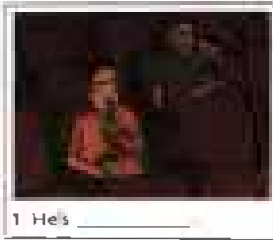
birth pregnant expecting weighed born due



### MARRIAGE

- 3 When did you last go to a wedding? Whose was it? What was it like? Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

married widowed single divorced engaged



- 4 These sentences describe the events in Nina's life. Put them in the correct order. Read them aloud round the class. What is a honeymoon?



Nina and Ted in 2002

- \_\_\_ They got married in 2002 in a registry office.
- \_\_\_ They went to Venice on honeymoon.
- \_\_\_ The marriage started to go wrong.
- \_\_\_ In 2004 they had a son, Sam.
- \_\_\_ They split up and got divorced in 2008.
- 4 It's their anniversary today! They've been married since 2010.
- \_\_\_ Nina remarried. She married Robert, a colleague from work
- \_\_\_ They got engaged two years later.
- 1. Nina and Ted started going out when they were both 17.

- 5 T 11.6 Listen to Alison talking about her life. In what ways is her story different from Nina's? Who are Ben, Mark, Ellen, Tessa, and Tom?

### DEATH

- 6 Complete the sentences with words on the right.

- 1 'Are your grandparents still \_\_\_\_\_?'  
'My grandmother is. My grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ before I was born.'
- 2 The \_\_\_\_\_ of his uncle came as a great shock. It was totally unexpected.
- 3 He \_\_\_\_\_ a heart attack. The \_\_\_\_\_ is next Thursday.
- 4 'Do you still have your dog?' 'No. He's been \_\_\_\_\_ a long time. I \_\_\_\_\_ him terribly.'



# EVERYDAY ENGLISH

## Good news, bad news

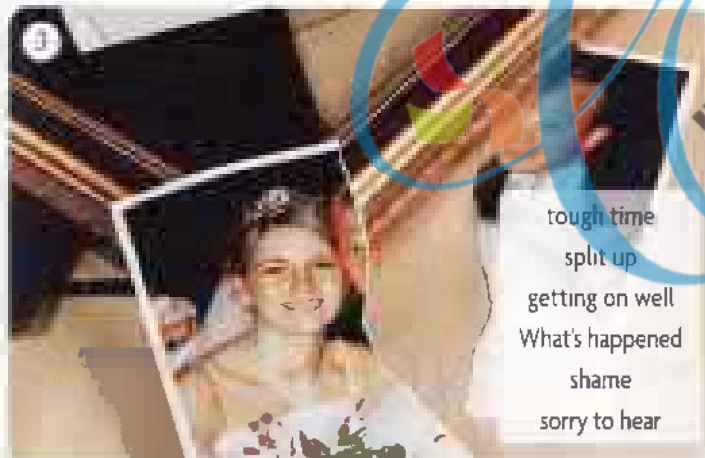
1 Look at the pictures. What is the good news? What is the bad news?

2 **T11.7** Work with a partner. Complete the conversations with words in the box. After each one listen and check.



A My wife <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a baby last night.  
B <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_! Was it a boy or girl?  
A A boy! William James  
B How much did he <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_?  
A 4.1 kilos.  
B Ooh! A big boy. How are mother and baby <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_?  
A They're fine  
B That's wonderful. <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ when you see her.

A Alfie and I have got <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
B That's <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_! Congratulations!  
A Do you like my <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_?  
B Wow! Diamonds! It's <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. When's the <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_?  
A We're thinking of getting married next spring.  
B I hope I'm invited.  
A Of course you are. I want you to be a <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
B Really? I'd love that. I've never been one before.



A Have you heard about Bill and Josie?  
B No! <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_?  
A Well, they've been having a <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ recently.  
B I know, they haven't been <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at all.  
A Mm. Well, they've finally decided to <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
B I'm so <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ that. What a <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_!  
A Yes, I always thought they were so good together.

A We lost Grandpa last week.  
B I know. Your dad told me. I'm <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. He was a  
<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Everyone was really <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
A He and Grandma were <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ nearly sixty years.  
B That's incredible! How old was he?  
A Eighty-eight.  
B And how's your Grandma <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_?  
A She's OK. She's got her family around her.  
B Well, I'm sure you all have wonderful <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of him.

3 Choose two of the conversations and practise them with your partner. Act them out to the class.