

Verb tenses

Sometimes the verb tense that you choose will give a different angle to what you want to say.

- The Past tense implies that the action or state was finished or only applied to past time
- The Present tense implies that something is habitual or on-going at present and into the future
- The Present Perfect implies that something that started in the past is still happening or still relevant up to the present

Imagine you are a typical student, describing yourself in an interview. Select the best option from the choices below. Make your selection assuming that you are currently studying at the University and that you have a standard academic background.

1. I am a responsible person
 I was a responsible person
 I have been a responsible person
2. I spend six years in primary school
 I spent six years in primary school
 I have spent six years in primary school
3. I live in Hong Kong
 I lived in Hong Kong
 I have lived in Hong Kong
4. I am a studious child
 I was a studious child
 I have been a studious child
5. I am fluent in English
 I was fluent in English
 I have been fluent in English
6. I have several holiday jobs
 I had several holiday jobs
 I have had several holiday jobs
7. I watch the world News on TV
 I watched the world news on TV
 I have watched the world News on TV
8. I don't go to China
 I didn't go to China
 I haven't been to China

9. *I expect to get my degree*
 I expected to get my degree
 I have expected to get my degree
10. *I am hardworking and enthusiastic*
 I was hardworking and enthusiastic
 I have been hardworking and enthusiastic
11. *I am awarded a place at secondary school*
 I was awarded a place at secondary school
 I have been awarded a place at secondary school
12. *I don't apply for other universities*
 I didn't apply for other universities
 I haven't applied for other universities
13. *I am a kindergarten class monitor*
 I was a kindergarten class monitor
 I have been a kindergarten class monitor
14. *I don't choose my 3rd year courses*
 I didn't choose my 3rd year courses
 I haven't chosen my 3rd year courses

Key-

1. I am a responsible person	I was a responsible person	I have been a responsible person
2. I spend six years in primary school	I spent six years in primary school	I have spent six years in primary school
3. I live in Hong Kong	I lived in Hong Kong	I have lived in Hong Kong
4. I am a studious child	I was a studious child	I have been a studious child
5. I am fluent in English	I was fluent in English	I have been fluent in English
6. I have several holiday jobs	I had several holiday jobs	I have had several holiday jobs
7. I watch the world News on TV	I watched the world news on TV	I have watched the world News on TV
8. I don't go to China	I didn't go to China	I haven't been to China
9. I expect to get my degree	I expected to get my degree	I have expected to get my degree
10. I am hardworking and enthusiastic	I was hardworking and enthusiastic	I have been hardworking and enthusiastic
11. I am awarded a place at secondary school	I was awarded a place at secondary school	I have been awarded a place at secondary school
12. I don't apply for other universities	I didn't apply for other universities	I haven't applied for other universities
13. I am a kindergarten class monitor	I was a kindergarten class monitor	I have been a kindergarten class monitor
14. I don't choose my 3 rd year courses	I didn't choose my 3 rd year courses	I haven't chosen my 3 rd year courses