

ELTE Tenses on Christmas quiz

49

1. Before Christmas, Mary ____ (already decorate) the house beautifully with lights.

- ☐ (A) would have decorated
- ☐ (B) had already decorated
- ☐ (C) decorated
- ☐ (D) was decorating

2. They ____ (sing) carols last Christmas Eve when the power went out.

Video URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkeGihSD63o>

- ☐ (A) had sung
- ☐ (B) were singing
- ☐ (C) sang
- ☐ (D) will have sung

3. By the time Santa arrived, the children ____ (fall) asleep.

- ☐ (A) had fallen
- ☐ (B) would fall
- ☐ (C) fell
- ☐ (D) were falling

4. They ____ (enjoy) the Christmas party until the late hours of the night.

- ☐ (A) would have enjoyed
- ☐ (B) were enjoying
- ☐ (C) had enjoyed
- ☐ (D) enjoyed

5. By Christmas 2026, they ___ (complete) their new home for the holidays.

- ☐ (A) completed
- ☐ (B) have completed
- ☐ (C) were completing
- ☐ (D) will have completed

6. Santa ___ (deliver) gifts all night as the snow was falling quietly.

- ☐ (A) delivered
- ☐ (B) had delivered
- ☐ (C) was delivering
- ☐ (D) will deliver

7. The family ___ (prepare) the Christmas dinner when guests began to arrive.

- ☐ (A) would have prepared
- ☐ (B) were preparing
- ☐ (C) had prepared
- ☐ (D) prepared

8. After he ate the cookies, Santa ___ (feel) very happy.

- ☐ (A) had felt
- ☐ (B) felt
- ☐ (C) was feeling
- ☐ (D) would feel

9. The children ___ (already wrap) the gifts when their parents joined them.

- ☐ (A) were wrapping
- ☐ (B) had already wrapped
- ☐ (C) would wrap
- ☐ (D) wrapped

10. During the night, they ___ (listen) to Christmas stories as the fire crackled.

- ☐ (A) had listened
- ☐ (B) listened
- ☐ (C) were listening
- ☐ (D) will have listened

11. By next Christmas, they ____ (build) a large snowman in the yard.

- ☐ (A) were building
- ☐ (B) built
- ☐ (C) will have built
- ☐ (D) have built

12. On Christmas morning, the children ____ (already open) most of their gifts before the sun rose.

- ☐ (A) had already opened
- ☐ (B) opened
- ☐ (C) were opening
- ☐ (D) will have opened

13. Last Christmas, while everyone ____ (have) dinner, snow started to fall.

- ☐ (A) were having
- ☐ (B) was having
- ☐ (C) had
- ☐ (D) have had

14. He told them that he ____ (decorate) the entire house before Christmas Eve.

- ☐ (A) had decorated
- ☐ (B) decorated
- ☐ (C) was decorating
- ☐ (D) will decorate

15. After the celebration, they ____ (decide) to watch a Christmas movie.

- ☐ (A) will have decided
- ☐ (B) decided
- ☐ (C) had decided
- ☐ (D) were deciding

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1. Before Christmas, Mary ___ (already decorate) the house beautifully with lights.

- ☐ A would have decorated
- ☒ B had already decorated
- ☐ C decorated
- ☐ D was decorating

i The past perfect is used to show that an action was completed before another past action. 'Had already decorated' indicates completion before Christmas.

2. They ___ (sing) carols last Christmas Eve when the power went out.

Video URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkeGihSD63o>

- ☐ A had sung
- ☒ B were singing
- ☐ C sang
- ☐ D will have sung

i Past continuous describes an ongoing action interrupted by another action. 'Were singing' shows carol-singing was in progress when lights went out.

3. By the time Santa arrived, the children ___ (fall) asleep.

- ☒ A had fallen
- ☐ B would fall
- ☐ C fell
- ☐ D were falling

i Past perfect is used when one action is completed before another past action. 'Had fallen' shows the children were already asleep when Santa came.

4. They ___ (enjoy) the Christmas party until the late hours of the night.

- ☐ A would have enjoyed
- ☐ B were enjoying
- ☐ C had enjoyed
- ☒ D enjoyed

i Past simple is used for completed actions in the past. 'Enjoyed' indicates they partook and completed celebrating that night.

5. By Christmas 2026, they ___ (complete) their new home for the holidays.

- ☐ A completed
- ☐ B have completed
- ☐ C were completing
- ☒ D will have completed

i Future perfect indicates that an action will be completed before a certain future time. 'Will have completed' means the home will be ready by 2026.

6. Santa ___ (deliver) gifts all night as the snow was falling quietly.

- ☐ A delivered
- ☐ B had delivered
- ☒ C was delivering
- ☐ D will deliver

i Past continuous is used for longer actions interrupted or happening alongside another. 'Was delivering' shows ongoing action while snow was falling.

7. The family ___ (prepare) the Christmas dinner when guests began to arrive.

- ☐ A would have prepared
- ☒ B were preparing
- ☐ C had prepared
- ☐ D prepared

i Past continuous shows actions in progress when interrupted by another past action. 'Were preparing' shows the dinner was being made during arrivals.

8. After he ate the cookies, Santa ___ (feel) very happy.

- ☐ A had felt
- ☒ B felt
- ☐ C was feeling
- ☐ D would feel

i Past simple relates to a completed action and its immediate result. 'Felt' indicates Santa's reaction after eating is completed.

9. The children ___ (already wrap) the gifts when their parents joined them.

- ☐ A were wrapping
- ☒ B had already wrapped
- ☐ C would wrap
- ☐ D wrapped

i Past perfect is used to indicate actions that were completed before another past action. 'Had already wrapped' means they finished wrapping before parents came.

10. During the night, they ___ (listen) to Christmas stories as the fire crackled.

- ☐ A had listened
- ☐ B listened
- ☒ C were listening
- ☐ D will have listened

i Past continuous is used for ongoing actions accompanied by another continuous action. 'Were listening' shows both listening and fire sounds happened together.

11. By next Christmas, they ___ (build) a large snowman in the yard.

- ☐ A were building
- ☐ B built
- ☒ C will have built
- ☐ D have built

i Future perfect describes an action that will be completed before a specified future time. 'Will have built' means the snowman will be done by next Christmas.

12. On Christmas morning, the children ____ (already open) most of their gifts before the sun rose.

- ☒ **A** had already opened
- ☐ **B** opened
- ☐ **C** were opening
- ☐ **D** will have opened

i Past perfect shows an action completed before another past action. 'Had already opened' indicates gifts were unwrapped prior to sunrise.

13. Last Christmas, while everyone ____ (have) dinner, snow started to fall.

- ☐ **A** were having
- ☒ **B** was having
- ☐ **C** had
- ☐ **D** have had

i Past continuous describes an action in progress during another event. 'Was having' indicates ongoing dinner interrupted by snow.

14. He told them that he ____ (decorate) the entire house before Christmas Eve.

- ☒ **A** had decorated
- ☐ **B** decorated
- ☐ **C** was decorating
- ☐ **D** will decorate

i Past perfect conveys one past action that happened before another past action. 'Had decorated' indicates completion before Eve.

15. After the celebration, they ____ (decide) to watch a Christmas movie.

- ☐ **A** will have decided
- ☒ **B** decided
- ☐ **C** had decided
- ☐ **D** were deciding

i Past simple is for actions completed in the past, often sequentially after another action. 'Decided' means the choice was made post-celebration.