

## PET COMMON WRITING MISTAKES 6

# Have, pass, spend and take with time expressions?

### 1. Circle the correct alternatives below.

Example: *We passed spent the weekend painting the kitchen.*

1. It spent / took me four hours to complete the job.
2. We had / spent a great time at the fair.
3. We played chess to pass / spend the time while we waited.

### 2. Complete these extracts from the Cambridge Learner's Dictionary by putting have, pass, spend or take into the correct form in each gap.

Example: (a) ...Have... is used with nouns (e.g. a wonderful time / a bad time) – to experience something: We're (b) ...having... a wonderful time here in Venice.

1. If you (a) ..... the time, you do something to stop yourself being bored during that period: The visitors (b) ..... their days swimming and playing volleyball.
2. (a) ..... time – to use time doing something or being somewhere: I (b) ..... a lot of time cleaning that room yesterday.
3. If something (a) ..... a particular time, that period is needed in order to complete it: It (b) ..... us all day to drive home.

### 3. Each of the sentences below contains a mistake made by intermediate students. Find and correct the mistakes.

Example: I hope you'll ~~spend~~ **have** a good time in my country.

1. I passed a relaxing evening with Paulo and Adriana.
2. I spent ten minutes to find my mother. (Clue: start with It ...)
3. It was a very good idea to go to Prague because we passed an excellent week there.
4. We spent four hours to reach the mountains. (Clue: start with It ...)
5. You should come to Brazil and pass your holidays here.

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**4. Complete the sentences below by putting have, pass, spend or take into the correct form in each gap.**

Example: *I ...had... a wonderful time swimming and surfing on my last holiday in Australia.*

1. I ..... last weekend studying and going out with my friends.
2. It ..... me 25 minutes to get to school this morning.
3. When I'm waiting for the doctor or waiting for a bus or train, I usually..... the time reading magazines.

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## ANSWERS

1.

1 took

2 had

3 pass

2.

1 (a) pass (b) pass(ed)

2 (a) spend (b) spent

3 (a) takes (b) took

3.

1 passed spent

2 I spent ten minutes to find my mother It took me ten minutes to find my mother

3 passed had OR spent

4 We spent four hours to reach the mountains It took us four hours to reach the mountains

5 pass spend

4.

1 spent

2 took

3 pass