

Past simple; Past continuous; used to**1 Complete the text with the past simple form of the verbs in the box.**

appear • be • become • change • die • love • not kill

Manuel Vázquez Montalbán was the creator of Spain's most famous detective, José 'Pepe' Carvalho. Montalbán (a) a novelist, poet and journalist from Spain. He was born in Barcelona and (b) the city very much.

Detective Pepe Carvalho is a very funny man with a passion for Barcelona's food and football club. The character of Pepe (c) for the first time in a novel in 1972, but he (d) a lot over the years. Montalbán (e) never tired of his character and so (f) him in his stories. Instead, Detective Pepe Carvalho sadly (g) with his creator in 2003.

2 Complete the text with the verbs in the box. Use the past simple or used to.

arrest • be • feel • play • spend • start • talk

It's hard to believe when you see him now, but Eugene Brown (a) a criminal. When he was 20, police (b) him for robbery in Washington, D.C., and he (c) 18 years in prison. When he was in prison, he (d) chess with a friend. While playing chess, he often (e) to his friend about his life. This made him realise something important: in his old life, he didn't (f) responsible for the choices he made. After he left prison, he (g) a chess club for kids who had difficult lives. Now he teaches kids about chess – and about how to improve their lives.

3 Complete the sentences with the past simple or past continuous form of the verbs given.

- When the inspector (arrive) on the crime scene the police (collect) evidence.
- They (investigate) the case when the robbers (turn up) at the police station and confessed.
- The woman (shoplift) clothes worth £1,000 while nobody (look).
- There (be) no answer because everybody (call) the emergency number.
- I (leave) the sweets in the sun for a day and they (melt)!

4 Find and correct the mistakes. Two of the sentences are correct.

- My aunt was walking down the High Street when a mugger stole her purse and phone.
.....
- I used to read a new detective novel last week – it was great!
.....
- While the police questioned the burglar, there was another burglary in town.
.....
- The detectives looked into the case when they came across some important evidence.
.....
- Did you use to behave well when you were at school?
.....

5 Complete the text with the past simple, past continuous or used to form of the verbs in the box.believe • come across • find • hear
kill • live • not help • sleep • travel

One of Agatha Christie's most famous novels is *Murder on the Orient Express*. Private detective Hercule Poirot, (a) from Istanbul to London on a luxurious train called the Orient Express when he (b) a businessman called Mr Ratchett. Ratchett (c) that his life was in danger but Poirot (d) him. On the second night of the journey, Poirot (e) in his bed when he (f) a cry from Ratchett's compartment. The next morning, the train staff (g) Mr Ratchett was dead. Poirot (h) the evidence and discovered that Ratchett (i) in the US but that he had killed someone there and run away. All the people in the coach had a connection to that person's family. So, who (j) Ratchett?