

## Personal news - verb forms

Dear Jean,

It (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) really great to hear from you. Sorry I (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (not reply) sooner but I (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) really busy at work for the last few weeks. Anyway, I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) really pleased (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) that you (6) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) your exams. You must be (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (look forward, start) your new job.

I have some good news too. Mervin and I (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to get married! Don't be too surprised - after all, we (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) together for nearly ten years. As we're both quite happy with our jobs and with living here we (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (think) it was time to tie the knot at last. We (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (not choose) the date for the wedding yet, but I expect it will be sometime in September. Of course, we'll let you know as soon as we decide. I really hope you'll be able to come.

What else? Oh yes, I suppose you (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (know) that Anne and Harry (13) \_\_\_\_\_ (move) to America. Harry (14) \_\_\_\_\_ (have got) a new job (15) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) at MacDonal'd's head office, so they (16) \_\_\_\_\_ (now / live) in Oak Brook, Illinois. I (17) \_\_\_\_\_ (have) an email from Anne a couple of weeks ago and she (18) \_\_\_\_\_ (seem) quite happy. We'll probably try to visit them later in the year - after the wedding.

We (19) \_\_\_\_\_ (not go) away yet this year. We're going to wait until our honeymoon. We (20) \_\_\_\_\_ (think) of going to South Africa as Mervin's sister (21) \_\_\_\_\_ (live) there so we could visit her at the same time.

Anyway, that's about it for now. Let me know how things go with the new job and I'll be in touch to send you an invitation when we (22) \_\_\_\_\_ (fix) a wedding date.

Lots of love

## Answers

Dear Jean,

It **is /was\*** really great to hear from you. Sorry I **haven't replied** sooner but **I've been really** busy at work for the last few weeks. Anyway, I **am** really pleased **to hear** that you **passed / have passed<sup>1</sup>** your exams. You must be **looking forward to starting** your new job.

I have some good news too. Mervin and I **have decided** to get married! Don't be too surprised - after all, we **have been** together for nearly ten years. As we're both quite happy with our jobs and with living here we **thought** it was time to tie the knot at last. We **haven't chosen** the date for the wedding yet, but I expect it will be sometime in September. Of course, we'll let you know as soon as we decide. I really hope you'll be able to come.

What else? Oh yes, I suppose you **know** that Anne and Harry **have moved** to America. Harry **has got** a new job **working** at MacDonald's head office, so they **are now living** in Oak Brook, Illinois. I **had** an email from Anne a couple of weeks ago and she **seems** quite happy. We'll probably try to visit them later in the year - after the wedding.

**We haven't been** away yet this year. We're going to wait until our honeymoon. **We're thinking of** going to South Africa as Mervin's sister **lives / is living<sup>2</sup>** there so we could visit her at the same time.

Anyway, that's about it for now. Let me know how things go with the new job and I'll be in touch to send you an invitation when we **have fixed / fix<sup>3</sup>** a wedding date.

Lots of love

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<sup>1</sup> The choice depends whether the emphasis is on this being recent news or happening at some time in the past.

<sup>2</sup> Present simple suggests she lives there permanently; present continuous can imply a more temporary situation.

<sup>3</sup> Either is possible.