

(6) PRESENT, PAST AND FUTURE

ACTIVITY 1: Identify the tenses in **bold**, then match them to their use.

1. The Earth **revolves** round the Sun. _____
2. The train **leaves** at 5:30. _____
3. John **is looking for** a new house. _____
4. She can't play. She **has broken** her leg. _____
5. He **is** always **biting** his nails. _____
6. I **have been trying** to call you for an hour. _____
7. He **is flying** to Madrid tomorrow. _____
8. It's **getting** colder and colder. _____

- a) action which started in the past and continues up to the present with emphasis on duration.
- b) law of nature.
- c) expressing irritation.
- d) action happening around the time of speaking.
- e) result/ consequence of a past activity in the present.
- f) fixed arrangement in the future
- g) timetable
- h) gradual development

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present tense, then identify their use.

1. She _____ (move) house next week.
2. Carl and Mary are looking for a new house. The landlord _____ (evict) them from their flat.
3. _____ (you / wait) a long time?
4. They _____ (convert) the old mill into a beautiful new home at the moment.
5. Water _____ (freeze) at 0° C.
6. Her flight _____ (arrive) tonight at 7 pm.
7. _____ (you / sign) the contract for the house next week?
8. The Earth _____ (become) warmer and warmer.
9. The bus _____ (come) every ten minutes.
10. Jack and Maggie _____ (still / search) for the perfect house.
11. Bob can't move house now because he _____ (sign) a two-year contract.

ACTIVITY 2: Identify the tenses in **bold**, then match them to their use.

1. She **left** university six years ago.

2. He **was waiting** for the bus when the accident happened.

3. He **had just finished** his report when his boss asked to see him.

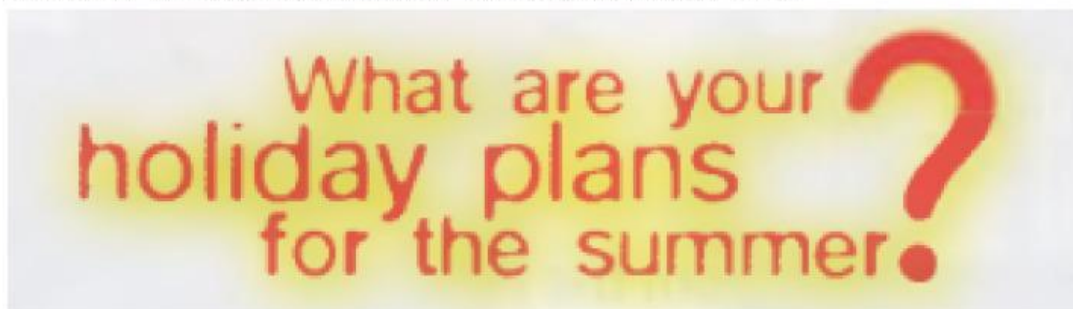
4. She **had been working** as a clerk for two years before she got promoted.

- a) happened before another past action with emphasis on continuation.
- b) happened at a specific time in the past.
- c) happened before another past action.
- d) was in progress at a certain time in the past.

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct past tense.

- 1) Paul _____ (break) his arm while he _____
(paint) the wall.
- 2) Sandra finally _____ (pass) the exam. She
_____ (study) really hard for months.
- 3) A: How long _____ (Mary / work) here before she
_____ (retire)?
B: More than twenty years.
- 4) While I _____ (walk) home last night, I _____
(bump) into Sally.
- 5) The sun _____ (shine) and the birds _____
(sing) as we _____ (drive) towards the village.
- 6) We _____ (finish) the main course and _____
(wait) for dessert when the fire alarm _____ (ring).

ACTIVITY 3: Look at the question, then read sentences 1 to 4.



Which suggests:

- a) a future action already arranged?
- b) an intention / plan?
- c) an uncertainty / possibility?
- d) a prediction based on evidence?

1. The weather is getting hotter and hotter. I'm **going to** spend the summer on my yacht. _____
2. I'm **touring** Malta. _____
3. I don't know yet. I think I'll **go** to Rio. _____
4. I'm working all summer but I'm **going to** spend a few days in Majorca in September. _____

The Future Tense can also express:

- A request: **Will** you **help** me with the suitcases?
- A promise: I'll definitely **call** you tomorrow.
- A hope: I hope she **won't be** late. We haven't got much time today.
- A fear: I'm afraid he **will be** fired if he keeps coming late to work.
- An offer: I'll **translate** it if you like; I speak a little Italian.

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.



Do you want a holiday that is really out of this world? Well, how about booking tickets for two weeks in outer space. This (1) _____ (be) a dream of science-fiction writers for decades but some scientists are predicting that soon his dream (2) _____ (become) a real possibility. It seems that big businesses (3) _____ (also / realise) that there is plenty of money to be made from taking tourists into orbit. The race is on to build a cheap and reusable spacecraft to carry passengers and freight. Once they (4) _____ (be) in space, these tourists (5) _____ (need) somewhere to stay. A Japanese company (6) _____ (already / make) plans to build the first space hotel. They say that they (7) _____ (be) ready to accept the first guests in as little as five years. The guests (8) _____ (pay) more than \$ 40,000 and many (9) _____ (suffer) from space sickness, but this isn't expected to put off who (10) _____ (look for) the ultimate adventure holiday.

