

## Tense and aspect – practice exercise

Complete the sentences below with the correct form of the verb in brackets. Use **simple, continuous, perfect or perfect continuous forms of the past, present and future**. (Do not use 'be going to + infinitive' or present tenses for the future in this exercise). **Remember to use contractions** when possible.

**Tip:** Identify words and use context in each sentence to help decide which tense and aspect to use.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (you / wait for) John? I \_\_\_\_\_ (think) he'll be here soon.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (agree). We \_\_\_\_\_ (waste) our time discussing this. Let's move on.
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ (check) the address, \_\_\_\_\_ (put) it into the sat nav and then \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) to the agency. When we \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) we \_\_\_\_\_ (discover) we were in the wrong town!
4. What can I do now? I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) compiling the statistics but my eyes \_\_\_\_\_ (hurt) because I \_\_\_\_\_ (stare) at a computer screen all day.
5. When the film \_\_\_\_\_ (start), I \_\_\_\_\_ (realise) that I \_\_\_\_\_ (already / see) it.
6. By last Christmas I \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) it was time to change my job. I \_\_\_\_\_ (think about) it for some time and it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a difficult decision to make.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (always / suspect) that the contract \_\_\_\_\_ (not / draw up) by a lawyer. It's good to know I didn't imagine it.
8. This time next week you \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) your exams and you \_\_\_\_\_ (relax) by a pool.
9. Everything \_\_\_\_\_ (be) perfect. We \_\_\_\_\_ (practice) for 2 months by the time you arrive on Friday and promise we \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for you to arrive before starting the dress rehearsal.
10. After the discussion we had, we know they \_\_\_\_\_ (lower) their prices on future orders.
11. They \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the engine when someone \_\_\_\_\_ (turn it on). We were lucky that nobody was injured.
12. Yesterday morning was beautiful. The birds \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) and the sun \_\_\_\_\_ (shine) when suddenly, out of nowhere, the storm \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) us.

Complete the table below by writing the number of the sentences above in which you used each tense/aspect. Only use your answers. A sentence may be listed in more than one box below. Use a comma and space before adding a new number (for example 3, 4, 5)

	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
<i>SIMPLE</i>			
<i>CONTINUOUS</i>			
<i>PERFECT</i>			
<i>PERFECT CONTINUOUS</i>			