

THEME 1: PRESENT TENSES 01

PRACTICE

Exercise 1: Put the verbs in brackets in the present simple or the present continuous tense. Underline the tense expressions in each sentence

- 1/ Bad students never (work) _____ hard.
- 2/ He generally (sing) _____ in English, but today he (sing) _____ in Spanish.
- 3/ My brother (work) _____ in a shoe store this summer.
- 4/ The student (look) _____ up that new word at the moment.
- 5/ It (rain) _____ very much in the summer. It (rain) _____ now.
- 6/ She sometimes (buy) _____ vegetables at his market.
- 7/ Be quiet! The baby (sleep) _____.
- 8/ She always (come) _____ late. I'm tired of waiting her.
- 9/ Look! A man (run) _____ after the train. He (want) _____ to catch it.
- 10/ John (travel) _____ to England tomorrow.
- 11/ My mother (cook) _____ some food in the kitchen at present. She always (cook) _____ in the mornings.
- 12/ I often (leave) _____ the city at weekends.
- 13/ I (see) _____ you (wear) _____ your best clothes.
- 14/ Canada _____ (share) the longest land border in the world with the United States.
- 15/ Two and two (make) _____ four.

Exercise 2: Put the verbs in brackets in the present perfect or the present perfect continuous tense.

- 1/ I (try) _____ to learn French for years, but I (not succeed) _____ yet.
- 2/ She (read) _____ all the works of Dickens. How many (you read) _____ ?
- 3/ I (wait) _____ here nearly half an hour for my girlfriend.
- 4/ Mary (rest) _____ in the garden all day because she (be) _____ ill.
- 5/ Although John (study) _____ at the University for 5 years, he (not get) _____ his degree yet.
- 6/ Jack (go) _____ to Switzerland for a holiday. He (never, be) _____ there.
- 7/ We (live) _____ here for the last six months, and (just, decide) _____ to move.
- 8/ That book (lie) _____ on the table for weeks. You (not read) _____ it yet ?
- 9/ He (not be) _____ here since Christmas; I wonder where he (live) _____ since then.
- 10/ He (lose) _____ his books. He (look) _____ for them all afternoon, but they (not turn up) _____ yet.

Exercise 3: Mark the letter A, B, C, or D to indicate the underlined part that needs correction in each of the following questions.

1. I have been unable to make out what the lecturer was saying because we we right at the back of the hall.

A

B

C

D

2. Although there were a number of significant differences between the two systems, both countries share

A

B

C

THEME 1: PRESENT TENSES 01

a commitment to high quality education.

D

3. Due to the geographical barrier, he has been deciding to choose distance education in order to get his
A B C D

university degree.

4. Lily couldn't answer any questions in the end-of-term examination this morning, but she thinks she
A B C
has failed.
D

5. I have started doing my homework when I got home from school, but I stopped to watch my favorite
A B C
music show.
D

6. Prof. Daniel, who has been working in our faculty for almost 15 years, is giving a seminar on further
A B C
education to students on next Friday.
D

Exercise 4: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions

Many of the most damaging and life-threatening types of weather-torrential rains, severe thunderstorms, and tornadoes-begin quickly, strike suddenly, and dissipate rapidly, devastating small regions while leaving neighboring areas untouched. One such event, a tornado, struck the northeastern section of Edmonton, Alberta, in July 1987. Total damages from the tornado exceeded \$250 million, the highest ever for any Canadian storm. Conventional computer models of the atmosphere have limited value in predicting short-live local storms like the Edmonton tornado, because the available weather data are generally not detailed enough to allow computers to discern the **subtle** atmospheric changes that precede these storms. In most nations, for example, weather balloon observations are taken **just once every twelve hours** at locations typically separated by hundreds of miles. With such limited data, conventional forecasting models do a much better job predicting general weather conditions over large regions than **they** do forecasting specific local events.

Until recently, the observation-intensive approach needed for accurate, very short range forecasts, or "Nowcasts", was not feasible. The cost of equipping and operating many thousands of conventional weather stations was prohibitively high, and the difficulties involved in rapidly collecting and processing the raw weather data from such a network were insurmountable. Fortunately, scientific and technological advances have overcome most of these problems. Radar systems, automated weather instruments, and satellites are all capable of making detailed, nearly continuous observation over large regions at a relatively low cost. Communications satellites can transmit data around the world cheaply and instantaneously, and modern computers can quickly compile and analyzing this large volume of weather information. Meteorologists and computer scientists now work together to design computer programs and video equipment capable of transforming raw weather data into words, symbols, and vivid graphic displays that forecasters can interpret easily and quickly. As meteorologists have begun using these new technologies in weather forecasting offices, Nowcasting is becoming a reality.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- A. Computers and weather
- B. Dangerous storms
- C. Weather forecasting
- D. Satellites

2. Why does the author mention the tornado in Edmonton, Canada?

- A. To indicate that tornadoes are common in the summer
- B. To give an example of a damaging storm
- C. To explain different types of weather
- D. To show that tornadoes occur frequently in Canada

3. The word "**subtle**" is closest in meaning to _____.

THEME 1: PRESENT TENSES 01

A. complex B. regular C. imagined D. slight

4. Why does the author state that observations are taken "just once every twelve hours"?

- A. To indicate that the observations are timely
- B. To show why the observations are of limited value
- C. To compare data from balloons and computers
- D. To give an example of international cooperation

5. The word "they" refers to _____.
A. models B. conditions C. regions D. events

6. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an advance in short-range weather forecasting?

- A. Weather balloons
- B. Radar systems
- C. Automated instruments
- D. Satellites

7. With which of the following statements is the author most likely to agree?

- A. Communications satellites can predict severe weather.
- B. Meteorologists should standardize computer programs.
- C. The observation-intensive approach is no longer useful.
- D. Weather predictions are becoming more accurate.

8. Which of the following would best illustrate Nowcasting?

- A. A five-day forecast
- B. A warning about a severe thunderstorm on the radio.
- C. The average rainfall for each month.
- D. A list of temperatures in major cities.

Exercise 5: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions

Light from a living plant or animal is called bioluminescence, or cold light, to distinguish *it* from incandescence or heat-generating light. Life forms could not produce incandescent light without being burned. Their light is produced in chemicals combining in such a way that little or no measurable heat is produced, and the life forms generating it are unharmed. Although bioluminescence is a relatively complicated process, it can be reduced to simple terms. Living light occurs when luciferin and oxygen combine in the presence of luciferase. In a few cases, fireflies the most common, an additional compound called ATP is required.

The earliest recorded experiments with bioluminescence in the late 1800s are attributed to Raphael Dubois, who extracted a luminous fluid from a clam, observing that it continued to glow in the test tube for several minutes. He named the substance luciferin, which means "the bearer of life". In further research, Dubois discovered that several chemicals were required for bioluminescence to occur. In his notes, it was recorded that a second important substance, which he called luciferase, was always present. In later study of small, luminous sea creatures, Newton Harley concluded that luciferin was composed of carbon, hydroxyl, and oxygen, which are the building blocks of all living cells. He also proved that there are a variety of luciferin and luciferase, specific to the plants and animals that produce them.

Much remains unknown, but many scientists who are studying bioluminescence now believe that the origin of the phenomenon may be traced to a time when there was no oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere. When oxygen was gradually introduced to the atmosphere, it was actually poisonous to life forms, plants and animals produced light to use up the oxygen in a gradual but necessary adaptation. It is speculated that millions of years ago, all life may have produced light to survive. As the millennia passed, life forms on Earth became tolerant of, and finally dependent on oxygen, and the adaptation that produced bioluminescence was no longer necessary, but some **primitive** plants and animals continued to use the light for new functions such as mating or attracting prey.

1. Which of the following is the main topic of the passage?

- A. Cold light
- B. Luciferase
- C. Primitive plants and animals
- D. Earth's atmosphere

2. According to the author, why has bioluminescence continued in modern plants and animals?

- A. For survival
- B. For attracting prey
- C. For producing heat
- D. For burning excess oxygen

THEME 1: PRESENT TENSES 01

3. The word “**primitive**” is closest meaning to _____.
A. very old B. very large C. very important D. very common

4. The word “**it**” refers to:
A. a plant B. an animal C. bioluminescence D. incandescence

5. Where in the passage does the author explain how living light occurs?
A. Line 1-3 B. Line 6-9 C. Line 10-11 D. Line 11-12

6. Bioluminescence is described as all of the following EXCEPT _____.
A. a complex chemicals process B. an adaptation of early plants and animals to the environment
C. a form of cold light D. a poisonous substance

7. The paragraph following the passage most probably discuss _____.
A. incandescence in prehistoric plants and animals
B. incandescence in modern plants and animals
C. bioluminescence in prehistoric plants and animals
D. bioluminescence in modern plants and animals