Present simple and present continuous; Articles

1 Complete the sentences with the present simple or the present continuous form of the verbs given.

1 'Someone _____ (knock) at the door.' 'Oh, I know who it is. It's Peter.'

2 Laura and Tom _____ (have) a very hard time at work at the moment.

3 Physical exercise _____ (help) teenagers with concentration in school.

4 'What's the matter?' 'The children _____ (argue) about who is a better footballer.'

5 I _____ (think) the expert's advice on retirement is very helpful.

6 He _____ (see) his parents every week.

7 Dad _____ (not realise) that I am not a little child any more.

8 _____ Julian always _____ (switch off) the music when he studies?

2 Choose the best answer (a, b or c) to complete the sentences.

1 My aunt speaks too fast. I _____ her.
- a don't understand
- b doesn't understand
- c am not understanding

2 I _____ it's important for teenagers to have a private space.
- a am understanding
- b understand
- c understands

3 Do you usually _____ to music at a reasonable volume?
- a listening
- b listen
- c are listening

4 I feel angry when people _____ senior citizens with respect.
- a are not treating
- b not treat
- c don't treat

5 Do you _____ a positive contribution to your family life?
- a make
- b making
- c makes

6 My niece _____ with her friends right now – she's at home alone.
- a not plays
- b doesn't play
- c isn't playing

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

1 'Hello, where are you?' 'Sorry, I can't talk now. I'm going into the office. Bye.'

_____

2 'Where are you coming from?' 'I come from Italy. I was born in Venice.'

_____

3 His Spanish is not perfect, but he improves.

_____

4 We don't discuss a lot of things at dinnertime – we watch TV.

_____

5 My nephew is never accepting my advice.

_____

4 Circle the correct alternative.

1 About 30% of my classmates come from *a/the* country outside of Europe.
2 My cousin and I are almost *the/0* same age.
3 I always feel very nervous before a class presentation – I don't like speaking in *the/0* public.
4 My brother is at university and my sister works as *0/a* nurse in a hospital.
5 We have class discussions in English all the time, but I don't always have *a/the* confidence to speak.

5 Circle the correct alternative.

Grandparents can be very important in the life of (a) *a/the* teenager. They have more experience and more time than parents and can help teens make (b) *a/the* right choices. Teens often (c) *think/are thinking* their parents don't understand them and that their grandparents understand them better. A study called 'My second mum and dad' says that there are currently 14 million grandparents in the UK, that the number (d) *increases/is increasing* and that they (e) *live/are living* longer now. The study also says that many grandparents help teenagers with (f) *a/0* school work and go to school events when their parents are busy. More than 25% of teenagers say they talk to their grandparents about problems they (g) *don't discuss/aren't discussing* with their parents. Experts say that this generation of grandparents has (h) *a/0* better relationship with today's teenagers because many grandparents are (i) *the/0* younger now. One grandmother says, 'We are probably the only generation that (j) *likes/is liking* some of the same music our grandchildren like.'

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