

# Present Tenses in Contrast

## REVISION

Choose the correct form, A, B, C or D, to complete the sentence.

- a I A this computer for more than ten years, so I'm thinking of getting a new one.
- b You're half an hour late! I here for ages!
- c I these black trousers better than those blue ones.
- d Can I borrow a pen? I mine.
- e I'd like to dance with you, but I for my friend.
- f Kate in Poland since last October. She's really enjoying it.
- g Carol's great, isn't she? her long?
- h Paul in all day today, so now he feels like going out.
- i You'd better borrow this umbrella. really hard.
- j I on my project all morning, and I need a break.

a A <i>have had</i>	B <i>have been having</i>	C <i>have</i>	D <i>am having</i>
b A <i>have waited</i>	B <i>have been waiting</i>	C <i>wait</i>	D <i>am waiting</i>
c A <i>have liked</i>	B <i>have been liking</i>	C <i>like</i>	D <i>am liking</i>
d A <i>have lost</i>	B <i>have been losing</i>	C <i>lose</i>	D <i>am losing</i>
e A <i>have waited</i>	B <i>have been waiting</i>	C <i>wait</i>	D <i>am waiting</i>
f A <i>has taught</i>	B <i>has been teaching</i>	C <i>teaches</i>	D <i>is teaching</i>
g A <i>Have you known</i>	B <i>Have you been knowing</i>	C <i>Do you know</i>	D <i>Are you knowing</i>
h A <i>has stayed</i>	B <i>has been staying</i>	C <i>stays</i>	D <i>is staying</i>
i A <i>It has rained</i>	B <i>It has been raining</i>	C <i>It rains</i>	D <i>It is raining</i>
j A <i>have worked</i>	B <i>have been working</i>	C <i>work</i>	D <i>am working</i>

# The arguments about climate change

According to all the measurements, climate change a *happens / is happening*, but science b *appears / is appearing* to be split on what to do about it. Unfortunately, scientists c *do not all agree / are not all agreeing* about the causes of global warming. In a recent book, two scientists – Fred Singer, a climate physicist, and Dennis Avery, a biologist – d *argue / are arguing* that the warming currently observed around the world is part of a 1,500-year cycle in solar energy. Singer, an outspoken critic of the idea that humans e *warm / are warming* the planet, and Avery, f *believe / are believing* that a well-established, 1,500-year cycle in the Earth's climate can explain most of the global warming that g *takes place / has taken place* in the last 100 years. We are currently on an upswing, getting warmer after the Little Ice Age, but in a few hundred years h *will be / are* back on the downswing, and getting colder again. They i *say / are saying* that efforts to slow down the current warming by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases are at best pointless, or at worst economically damaging. This, of course, is not what the fourth assessment report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) j *has said / said* a few weeks ago. That report from the UN climate science working group k *has concluded / concluded* that it l *is / has been* likely that rising greenhouse gas concentrations m *have caused / caused* most recent warming and that, depending on our actions now to slow the growth of emissions, warming by 2100 n *will probably be / is probably* between about 1.5°C and 6°C. So, which scientists o *tell / are telling* us the truth?



## Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense

- 1 Who ..... *has been using* ..... (use) my toothbrush?
- 2 'What ..... (you/do)?'  
'I ..... (write) a letter.'
- 3 Samantha ..... (play) tennis with friends every weekend.
- 4 Tim and Matilda ..... (be) married since 1991.
- 5 Uncle Bill ..... (just/decorate) the bathroom.
- 6 Pauline and Tom ..... (sing) in the school choir twice a week.
- 7 Who ..... (you/speak) to?
- 8 Sarah is very happy. She ..... (win) a poetry competition.
- 9 He ..... (drink) two cups of coffee this morning.
- 10 My friend ..... (live) in America at the moment.
- 11 They ..... (usually/change) jobs every five years.
- 12 I ..... (normally/cut) my hair myself.
- 13 Linda ..... (study) in the library for three hours.
- 14 We ..... (play) in a concert next weekend.
- 15 Who ..... (read) my diary?
- 16 Tim ..... (leave) the house at 7 o'clock every morning.
- 17 ..... (your mother/work) in a bank?
- 18 ..... (you/drink) coffee with your breakfast every day?
- 19 We ..... (make) plans for our summer holidays right now.
- 20 They ..... (move) house in September.

## Match the sentences to the correct descriptions

- 1 The plane to Sydney **leaves** at eleven o'clock.
- 2 I **have written** two letters this morning.
- 3 They're **going** on holiday on Saturday.
- 4 Graham **has known** Errol for five years.
- 5 You're **always leaving** the door open.
- 6 We are **rehearsing** a new play at the moment.
- 7 George **has bought** a new car.
- 8 Lisa **has been cleaning** the house all morning.
- 9 Look! Alison **has dyed** her hair!
- 10 More and more people **are recycling** their rubbish.

- a actions which started in the past and continue up to the present
- b action which has recently finished and whose result is visible in the present
- c to put emphasis on the duration of an action which started in the past and continues up to the present
- d to express criticism or annoyance
- e timetables and programmes
- f actions that we have arranged to do in the near future
- g action which has happened within a specific time period which is not over at the moment of speaking
- h action which happened at an unstated time in the past
- i changing or developing situations
- j temporary actions

## Choose the correct present tense form

- 1 A: Tortoises ...**live**... (live) to be very old.  
B: I've heard of one which is over a hundred years old.
- 2 A: Are you still busy?  
B: Yes. I ..... (read) this article for an hour and I still ..... (not/finish).
- 3 A: More and more people ..... (go) to university these days.  
B: Yes. I think it's a good thing.
- 4 A: I ..... (have) a party tonight. Do you want to come?  
B: Yes. What time does it start?
- 5 A: Why are your shoes wet?  
B: I ..... (wash) the car.
- 6 A: What's the matter?  
B: I ..... (break) my ankle.
- 7 A: What do I need to do next?  
B: You ..... (add) the sugar to the mixture and you ..... (mix) it well.
- 8 A: Who ..... (use) my car?  
B: I have.
- 9 A: Are you new here?  
B: No. Actually, I ..... (live) here for almost ten years.
- 10 A: Pete is playing his music very loud.  
B: Again! He ..... (always/do) that!
- 11 A: Have you made plans for Saturday yet?  
B: I ..... (go) to the cinema with Jack.
- 12 A: Mr Collins is a very good teacher.  
B: Well, he ..... (teach) Maths for twenty-five years, you know.
- 13 A: Are you going to the concert on Saturday night?  
B: Yes. Actually, I ..... (already/buy) the tickets.
- 14 A: Hello, Simon.  
B: Oh! We ..... (always/meet) each other in this supermarket.

- 1 A: Linda ...**is learning**... (learn) to drive at the moment.  
B: I know. She told me last week.
- 2 A: Has Alan got a job?  
B: Oh yes. He ..... (be) the manager of a leisure centre.
- 3 A: Do you want to have a break now?  
B: Not yet. I ..... (write) a report for tomorrow's meeting.
- 4 A: It's ten o'clock. Have you given the manager his letters?  
B: Yes, and I ..... (also/type) six reports so far this morning.
- 5 A: Is Jeff still in the garden?  
B: Yes. He ..... (plant) flowers all afternoon.
- 6 A: That author is very well-known, isn't she?  
B: Yes. She ..... (write) twenty novels so far.
- 7 A: You look very happy today.  
B: I am. I ..... (just/hear) some good news.
- 8 A: What time ..... (the play/start) tonight?  
B: Seven o'clock, I think.
- 9 A: Are you new to this company?  
B: Not really. In fact, I ..... (work) here for almost two years.
- 10 A: Are you ready for the concert?  
B: Yes. I ..... (practise) for weeks.
- 11 A: Do you do any exercise at all?  
B: Yes. Actually, I ..... (go) swimming three times a week.