

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

## 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?

GLOSSARY



### 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.