Language and Grammar III
Practice sheet 1
Tenses and Modals

1. Choose the correct ending to complete the sentences.

1 The fields are ploughed _____
   a as we stand here watching.
   b at this time of the year.

2 We were losing the match, _____
   a but in the end we won.
   b but we'll win the next one.

3 I've been reading that book _____
   a at least three times.
   b for the last six hours.

4 I expect I'll be sleeping _____
   a when the alarm clock goes off.
   b until the alarm clock goes off.

5 I've been writing the report, _____
   a so there's nothing more to do.
   b but there's still a bit more to do.

6 I've eaten lunch, _____
   a so I'm not hungry now.
   b but I'm hungry now.

2. Choose the correct option.

Hi Tom,

How are things at university? Still having fun? I can't believe that by the end of the month (1 in Bristol for a year. Time flies! Have you found a new house yet? Last time I saw you, (2) on a friend's sofa while you looked for your own place. Not great for studying! Talking about which, recently (3) a fascinating book about Chinese history. I'm halfway through it, but I'll lend it to you when (4) it. (5) to me by Tina, the girl (6) you about last time I saw you. Actually, (7) a lot of each other lately. (8) on a date last week to the cinema. Actually, I was late for it so (9) for half an hour by the time I got there. Not a good start! After (10) the film, we went for a bite to eat. (11) very well though, so (12 home early. At least that's what she told me! (13) ice skating tonight. Hopefully, (14) my neck by the time you come back!

Anyhow, hope all's well and see you next week,

Martin

3. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets. Don't use contractions.

1 Steven Spielberg's latest film _____ (come out) last month, but I _____ (not see) it yet.

2 At present, the old theatre building _____ (convert) into a nightclub. They _____ (work) on it for the past three months.

3 Throughout history, writers _____ (imprison) for the contents of their books, and this _____ (happen) even now in some places.

4 Yesterday, I _____ (have to) go back home because I _____ (leave) my books in my room.

5 We're so late! By the time we _____ (arrive), the meeting _____ (finished).

6 In 2014, $20 billion _____ (invest) in infrastructure projects. This _____ (lead to) the creation of 5,000 new jobs.

7 I _____ (work) on this essay all morning, but I don't think I _____ (finish) it by the time you get here.

4. Choose the modal verb which is NOT possible.

1 She looks so young. She ..... be his mother.

2 He's not answering the phone. He ……..have gone out.

3 It's four o'clock. Our guests ……be here soon.

4 Cycling in the city ……be dangerous.

5 There were dozens of people there. Somebody ……..have seen something.

6 The shop was closed on Sunday, so I ……..have bought it then.

7 Look! Jack's with a girl. It ……be his new girlfriend.

8 I heard a loud noise; it ……. have been a motorbike.

9 Jim wasn't at the meeting – he ……. have been off work that day.

10 They forecast rain tomorrow, but it ……. happen.

5. Match sentences 1–10 with functions a–e. There are two examples of each function.

1 Chang would stay out late and sleep all day. _____

2 The judge says Charley must pay all his speeding fines. _____

3 You can go to the party tonight if you finish your homework. _____

4 Perhaps you ought to reconsider the job offer. _____

5 You may leave the table if you have finished. _____

6 I'm afraid I can't help you. I'm busy just now. _____

7 My mother would always bake a cake on Sundays. _____

8 You could always write her a letter. _____

9 Julia has to report to the police station today. _____

10 Sorry, I'd love to, but I can't make it tonight. _____

a. permission b. obligation c. habit d. refusal e. advice