



## THE CONTINUOUS ASPECT. LET'S PRACTICE

1 Tick (✓) the correct sentence, a or b.

Example: Which sentence would be said after one particular meal?  
a I've eaten too much. ✓ b I've been eating too much.

- 1 Which sentence refers to a temporary situation?  
a That lamp sits on that table over there.  
b You're sitting in my seat.
- 2 Which activity is probably not completed?  
a I've been writing this essay all evening.  
b I've written to him asking for an appointment.
- 3 Which is a gradual process?  
a The increase in traffic noise is becoming a real nuisance.  
b John becomes President of Oxford Rotary Club in July.
- 4 Which would you say when you look out of the window early one morning?  
a It's been raining. b It was raining.
- 5 Which is a more certain plan?  
a I was thinking of spending the weekend at my sister's.  
b I'm planning to spend the weekend at my sister's.
- 6 You saw a colleague waiting for a bus on your way to work. Which would you say to your other colleagues when you get to the office to explain why she was there?  
a She might have gone to see her dentist.  
b She might have been going to see her dentist.



2 Tick (✓) the more suitable underlined verb in each pair.

Sometimes both may be possible. The first has been done for you.

I don't normally go to the cinema. Not because I don't like it but because it's just a habit I have never got into. However, on this occasion I decided (✓) / was deciding to go because my friends had been constantly going / had constantly gone <sup>(1)</sup> on about this film all week and eventually wore me down. It starred / was starring <sup>(2)</sup> some ephemeral Hollywood actor whom I had vaguely heard of but couldn't put a face to. We got to the cinema early to find people were already waiting / already waited <sup>(3)</sup> outside which suggested that my friends weren't the only ones who thought it was worth seeing – although I could still think of several other things I would rather having been doing / do <sup>(4)</sup> at that moment.

In the end, the film turned out / was turning out <sup>(5)</sup> to be not half as bad as expected, though I would have preferred / would have been preferring <sup>(6)</sup> something with a bit more action. The plot centred on two men who were planning to carry out some immensely complicated robbery, though what they completely failed to realise / were completely failing to realise <sup>(7)</sup> was that all the time their plans were being closely monitored / were closely monitored <sup>(8)</sup> by the police. Somewhat unpredictably, however, they got away with it because they changed / were changing <sup>(9)</sup> their plans at the last minute. It was okay but I'm not thinking / I don't think <sup>(10)</sup> of going again.

4 Write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence, but using the word given.

Example: My original intention was to drive all the way. **going**  
*I was going to drive all the way.*

- a It occurred to me that you might like to come round this evening.  
**wondering** .....
- b Our arguments over politics go back years.  
**arguing** .....
- c My son is finally coming to accept that there's no such thing as a free lunch.  
**dawning** .....
- d Who is the organiser of this event?  
**running** .....
- e I think he's at last beginning to agree with me.  
**round** .....