(6) PRESENT, PAST AND FUTURE

ACTIVITY 1: Identify the tenses in **bold**, then match them to their use.

1. The Earth **revolves** round the Sun. _____
2. The train **leaves** at 5:30. _____
3. John **is looking for** a new house. _____
4. She can't play. She **has broken** her leg. _____
5. He **is** always **biting** his nails. _____
6. I **have been trying** to call you for an hour. _____
7. He **is flying** to Madrid tomorrow. _____
8. It**'s getting** colder and colder. _____

a) action which started in the past and continues up to the present with emphasis on duration.
b) law of nature.
c) expressing irritation.
d) action happening around the time of speaking.
e) result/ consequence of a past activity in the present.
f) fixed arrangement in the future
g) timetable
h) gradual development

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present tense, then identify their use.

1. She _____ (move) house next week.
2. Carl and Mary are looking for a new house. The landlord _____ (evict) them from their flat.
3. _____ (you / wait) a long time?
4. They _____ (convert) the old mill into a beautiful new home at the moment.
5. Water _____ (freeze) at 0° C.
6. Her flight _____ (arrive) tonight at 7 pm.
7. _____ (you / sign) the contract for the house next week?
8. The Earth _____ (become) warmer and warmer.
9. The bus _____ (come) every ten minutes.
10. Jack and Maggie _____ (still / search) for the perfect house.
11. Bob can't move house now because he _____ (sign) a two-year contract.

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ACTIVITY 2: Identify the tenses in **bold**, then match them to their use.

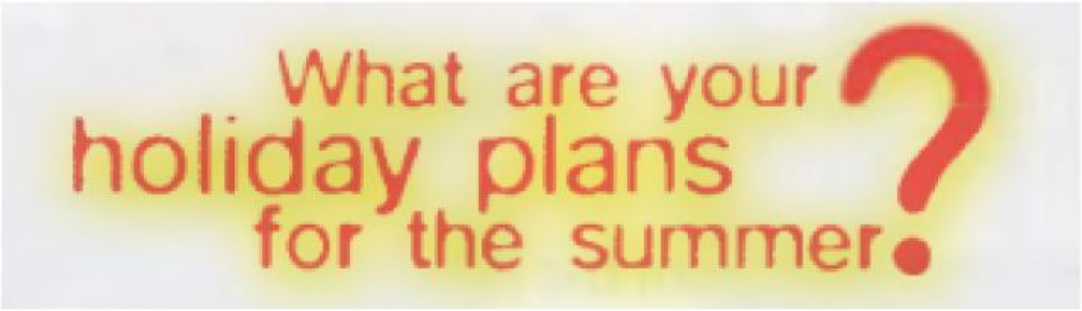
1. She **left** university six years ago.
   _____
2. He **was waiting** for the bus when the accident happened.
   _____
3. He **had just finished** his report when his boss asked to see him.
   _____
4. She **had been working** as a clerk for two years before she got promoted.
   _____

a) happened before another past action with emphasis on continuation.
b) happened at a specific time in the past.
c) happened before another past action.
d) was in progress at a certain time in the past.

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct past tense.

1) Paul _____ (break) his arm while he _____ (paint) the wall.
2) Sandra finally _____ (pass) the exam. She _____ (study) really hard for months.
3) A:How long _____ (Mary / work) here before she _____ (retire)?
   B: More than twenty years.
4) While I _____ (walk) home last night, I _____ (bump) into Sally.
5) The sun _____ (shine) and the birds _____ (sing) as we _____ (drive) towards the village.
6) We _____ (finish) the main course and _____ (wait) for dessert when the fire alarm _____ (ring).

ACTIVITY 3: Look at the question, then read sentences 1 to 4.



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Which suggests:

a) a future action already arranged?
b) an intention / plan?
c) an uncertainty / possibility?
d) a prediction based on evidence?

1. The weather is getting hotter and hotter. **I'm going to** spend the summer on my yacht. _____
2. **I'm touring** Malta. _____
3. I don't know yet. I think **I'll go** to Rio. _____
4. I'm working all summer but **I'm going to** spend a few days in Majorca in September. _____

The Future Tense can also express:

- A request: **Will** you **help** me with the suitcases?
- A promise: I'**ll** definitely **call** you tomorrow.
- A hope: I hope she **won't be** late. We haven't got much time today.
- A fear: I'm afraid he **will be** fired if he keeps coming late to work.
- An offer: I'**ll translate** it if you like; I speak a little Italian.

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.



Do you want a holiday that is really out of this world? Well, how about booking tickets for two weeks in outer space. This (1) _____ (be) a dream of science-fiction writers for decades but some scientists are predicting that soon his dream (2) _____ (become) a real possibility. It seems that big businesses (3) _____ (also / realise) that there is plenty of money to be made from taking tourists into orbit. The race is on to build a cheap and reusable spacecraft to carry passengers and freight. Once they (4) _____ (be) in space, these tourists (5) _____ (need) somewhere to stay. A Japanese company (6) _____ (already / make) plans to build the first space hotel. They say that they (7) _____ (be) ready to accept the first guests in as little as five years. The guests (8) _____ (pay) more than $ 40,000 and many (9) _____ (suffer) from space sickness, but this isn't expected to put off who (10) _____ (look for) the ultimate adventure holiday.

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