Grammar Practice

A Read what the following people have to say about learning English in Britain. Complete with the Present Progressive or the Present Simple of the verbs in brackets.

As part of my job, I (1) _____ (travel) abroad a lot, so I (2) _____ (need) to improve my English. For this reason, I (3) _____ (attend) a course in Business English at a language school in London. The course (4) _____ (last) three weeks.

I (5) _____ (come) from Italy but I (6) _____ (study) in England at the moment. I (7) _____ (stay) with a British family. In this way, my English (8) _____ (improve) faster because I (9) _____ just _____ (not use) it in the classroom but in my everyday life as well.

I (10) _____ (visit) England every two or three years, so I (11) _____ (speak) some English but not much. At present I (12) _____ (do) a course at a language school in London and I (13) _____ (learn) lots of new stuff! Apart from that, in the afternoons I (14) _____ (go) out with my classmates and we (15) _____ (try) to practise our English as much as possible.

B Circle the correct answers.

1. In this story, a boy **finds / is finding** a time machine and **travels / is travelling** through time.
2. Don't bother me now. I **write / am writing** an important letter.
3. I **am thinking / think** about grandmother. We hardly ever **visit / are visiting** her. Let's visit her tomorrow.
4. The minibus, which **is taking / takes** people to the other side of the island, **leaves / is leaving** at 11:00 am and **is returning / returns** at 6:00 pm.
5. I **sleep / am sleeping** at my mother's house this week because I **am having / have** my house painted.
6. Why **are you leaving / do you leave** so early tomorrow morning?
7. I **think / am thinking** you should buy him a tie. He **is liking / likes** to dress formally.
8. Flowers **bloom / are blooming** in spring.
9. You **are turning / turn** left at the traffic lights and **go / are going** up Oxford Street.
10. Here **comes / is coming** Tom. Let's tell him the news.

C Using the words given and other words, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Do not change the word given. (Use 2-5 words in total.)

1. John never stops criticising my friends.
   always John _____ my friends.
2. We've arranged to meet at 8:00 pm tomorrow.
   are We _____ at 8:00 pm tomorrow.
3. What time is your plane scheduled to arrive at Heathrow?
   land What time _____ at Heathrow?
4. I have arranged to have dinner with Jerry tonight.
   am I _____ with Jerry tonight.
5. The older he gets, the more eccentric he becomes.
   is As time goes by, he _____ eccentric.
6. They don't like spicy food, so they avoid eating it.
   never They _____ as they don't like it.
7. Jack has found a job in a supermarket for the summer.
   is Jack _____ in a supermarket this summer.
8. How much is that green jacket, please?
   cost How much _____, please?

Vocabulary Practice

A Complete using the correct form of the phrasal verbs given.

ask for:	request sth
ask out:	invite sb to go out with you
blow up:	(cause to) explode
break down:	(1) stop working (for a piece of machinery) (2) lose control of your feelings or emotions
break in:	enter a building illegally or by force (intransitive)
break into:	enter a building illegally or by force (transitive)
break up:	(1) divide into smaller parts (2) end a meeting, gathering, etc.

It was my first day at work so I (1) _____ my best friend to celebrate it with me. When we had finished having dinner, I (2) _____ the bill.

As I was looking out of the window, I saw three masked men trying to (3) _____ the bank across the street. Before I could react, there was an explosion. The robbers had (4) _____ a car that was parked near the bank to distract people's attention, so that they could (5) _____ without being noticed.

Just then, the robbers ran out of the bank and got into a white Fiat. But they were unlucky. Five hundred metres down the street their car (6) _____ and they were caught.

After the incident, the police (7) _____ the crowd of people that had gathered and life returned to normal again.