

**4**

Identify the tenses, then match them 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

**5**

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present 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.

**6**

a) Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

Dear Kathleen,

I 1) ...*'m writing*... (write) to tell you my news. My school 2) ..... (choose) me to spend six weeks at a school in the USA. I'm very happy about it!

At the moment, I 3) ..... (pack) things for my trip, because I 4) ..... (leave) next week. My mother 5) ..... (book) the ticket.

I 6) ..... (wait) for this opportunity for ages, so I'm very excited. I 7) ..... (finish) reading two books about the USA and I 8) .....

..... (borrow) another one from the school library. I 9) ..... (become) more and more nervous every day!

Well, I must go now. I've got a lot of things to do. I'll write to you from the USA.

Love,  
Tracy

b) Which of the present forms in the text above are used to express:

- 1 actions which happened at an unstated time in the past
- 2 actions which started in the past and continue up to the present with emphasis on duration
- 3 actions happening at or around the moment of speaking
- 4 changing and developing situations
- 5 actions that we have arranged to do in the near future

## State Verbs

State Verbs are verbs which describe a state rather than an action and therefore do not normally have continuous tenses. These include:

- verbs which express likes and dislikes: *like, love, dislike, hate, enjoy, prefer, adore*, etc. e.g. *I love chocolate ice cream.*
- verbs of the senses: *see, hear, smell, taste, feel, look, sound*. We often use *can* or *could* with these verbs when we refer to what we see, hear, etc. at the moment of speaking. e.g. *Jim must be at home. I can see his car parked outside.*
- verbs of perception: *know, believe, understand, realise, remember, forget, notice, recognise, think, seem, see (=understand), expect (=think)*, etc. e.g. *I expect they will be late.*
- some other verbs such as *be, contain, include, belong, fit, need, matter, cost, mean, own, want, owe, have (=possess), require, weigh, wish, keep (=continue)*, etc. e.g. *My uncle owns a hotel.*

Some of the above verbs are used in continuous tenses when they describe actions and not states. Study the following examples:

- I **think** he's lying. (= believe)  
I'm **thinking** about the plan. (= am considering)
- The food **tastes** delicious. (= has a delicious flavour)  
He **is tasting** the food. (= is testing the flavour of)
- I can **see** some people. (= perceive with my eyes)  
I **see** what you mean. (= understand)  
I'm **seeing** my doctor tomorrow. (= am meeting)
- It **looks** as if they've finished the job. (= appears)  
Mike **is looking** out of the window. (is directing his eyes)

- This perfume **smells** nice. (= has a nice smell)  
He **is smelling** the milk. (= is sniffing)
- The baby's hair **feels** like silk. (= has the texture of)  
She **is feeling** the baby's forehead. (= is touching)
- Bob **has** a Porsche. (= possesses)  
He's **having a shower** at the moment. (= is taking a shower)
- The chicken **weighs** 2 kilos. (= has a weight of)  
The butcher **is weighing** the meat. (= is measuring how heavy it is)
- This dress **fits** you perfectly. (= it is the right size)  
We **are fitting** new locks. (= are putting in)
- He **appears** to be nervous. (= seems)  
He **is appearing** in a new play. (= is taking part)
- He is a rude person. (= character - permanent state)  
He **is being** rude. (= behaviour - temporary situation, usually with adjectives such as *careful, silly, (im)polite, lazy*, etc.)

**Note:** a) The verb *enjoy* can be used in continuous tenses to express specific preference.  
e.g. *I'm enjoying this party a lot. (specific preference)*

**BUT:** *I enjoy going to parties. (I enjoy parties in general.)*

b) The verbs *look* (when we refer to a person's appearance), *feel* (= experience a particular emotion), *hurt* and *ache* can be used in either the continuous or simple tenses with no difference in meaning.  
e.g. *You look/are looking great today.*

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Put the verbs in brackets into the present simple or the present continuous.

- A: Why *...are you smelling...* (you/smell) the soap?  
B: It *.....* (smell) lovely. It's like roses!
- A: Why *.....* (you/taste) the soup?  
B: To see if it *.....* (taste) good. I think it needs more salt.
- A: I *.....* (feel) very tired.  
B: You should go to bed early.
- A: I *.....* (see) Andy this evening.  
B: I *.....* (see). So, you don't want to come to the cinema with me, do you?
- A: How much *.....* (the bag of apples/weigh)?  
B: I don't know yet. The man *.....* (weigh) the bag now.
- A: I *.....* (think) about buying a new car soon.  
B: Why? I *.....* (think) your car is fine. You don't need a new one.
- A: What *.....* (you/look) at?  
B: The sky. It *.....* (look) as if it's going to rain.
- A: I really *.....* (enjoy) home-made food.  
B: So do I, and I *.....* (enjoy) every bit of this meal.
- A: Why *.....* (you/feel) the radiator?  
B: It *.....* (feel) cold in here. Is the heating on?
- A: That famous opera singer *.....* (appear) at the opera house tonight.  
B: Yes. He *.....* (appear) to be feeling better after his operation.
- A: Chris *.....* (be) a sensible person, isn't he?  
B: Yes, but in this case he *.....* (be) rather foolish.
- A: My dad *.....* (fit) the old blind from the living room in my bedroom today.  
B: Really? *.....* (it/fit) that window?
- A: My back *.....* (hurt).  
B: Why don't you lie down for a while?