Present simple and present continuous, State and action verbs; Articles

1 Complete the sentences with the present simple or the present continuous form of the verbs given.

1 'Someone ..... (knock) at the door.' 'Oh, I know who it is. It's Peter.'

2 Laura and Tom ..... (have) a very hard time at work at the moment.

3 Physical exercise ..... (help) teenagers with concentration in school.

4 'What's the matter?' 'The children ..... (argue) about who is a better footballer.'

5 I ..... (think) the expert's advice on retirement is very helpful.

6 He ..... (see) his parents every week.

7 Dad ..... (not realise) that I am not a little child any more.

8 ..... Julian always ..... (switch off) the music when he studies?

2 Choose the best answer (a, b or c) to complete the sentences.

1 My aunt speaks too fast. I ..... her.
- **a** don't understand
- **b** doesn't understand
- **c** am not understanding

2 I ..... it's important for teenagers to have a private space.
- **a** am thinking
- **b** think
- **c** thinks

3 Do you usually ..... to music at a reasonable volume?
- **a** listening
- **b** listen
- **c** are listening

4 People ..... to treat senior citizens with respect.
- **a** are needing
- **b** not need
- **c** need

5 Do you ..... a positive contribution to your family life?
- **a** make
- **b** making
- **c** makes

6 My niece ..... with her friends right now – she's at home alone.
- **a** not plays
- **b** doesn't play
- **c** isn't playing

3 Find and correct the mistakes. Two of the sentences are correct.

1 'Hello, where are you?' 'Sorry, I can't talk now. I'm going into the office. Bye.'

.....

2 'Are you liking your sister?' 'Yes, I do. We don't have many arguments.'

.....

3 His Spanish is not perfect, but he improves.

.....

4 My parents believe family dinners are important but I don't enjoy them.

.....

5 My nephew is never accepting my advice.

.....

4 Circle the correct alternative.

1 About 30% of my classmates come from *a/the* country outside of Europe.
2 My cousin and I are almost *the/0* same age.
3 I always feel very nervous before a class presentation – I don't like speaking in *the/0* public.
4 My brother is at university and my sister works as *0/a* nurse in a hospital.
5 We have class discussions in English all the time, but I don't always have *a/the* confidence to speak.

5 Circle the correct alternative.

Grandparents can be very important in the life of (a) *a/the* teenager. They have more experience and more time than parents and can help teens make (b) *a/the* right choices. Teens often (c) *think/are thinking* their parents don't understand them and that their grandparents understand them better. A study called 'My second mum and dad' says that there are currently 14 million grandparents in the UK, that the number (d) *increases/is increasing* and that they (e) *live/are living* longer now. The study also says that many grandparents help teenagers with (f) *a/0* school work and go to school events when their parents are busy. More than 25% of teenagers say they talk to their grandparents about problems they (g) *don't discuss/aren't discussing* with their parents. Experts say that this generation of grandparents has (h) *a/0* better relationship with today's teenagers because many grandparents are (i) *the/0* younger now. One grandmother says, 'We are probably the only generation that (j) *likes/is liking* some of the same music our grandchildren like.'

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