

Tenses Review

Present Forms

Present Forms

1 Identify the tenses, then match them with the correct description.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 He runs a large travel agency. | a actions taking place at or around the moment of speaking; temporary situations |
| 2 The thief enters the room and opens the safe. | b emphasis on duration of an action which began in the past and continues up to the present |
| 3 Skill comes with practice. | c reviews/sports commentaries/dramatic narratives |
| 4 She's been practising that song for hours. | d actions started at a stated time in the past and continuing up to the present |
| 5 He's working hard these days . | e fixed arrangements in the near future |
| 6 He's gained a lot of weight recently . | f timetables/programmes (future meaning) |
| 7 Tom's picking me up at 7 o'clock tonight . | g permanent situations or states |
| 8 She's staying with a friend in London at present . | h permanent truths or laws of nature |
| 9 The ferry arrives at 10.00 am. | i personal experiences or changes which have happened |
| 10 They've been talking on the phone since 9 o'clock this morning. | |

Dear Sir/Madam,

I 1) ...*am writing*... (write) on behalf of Midfield School. Every year, our students 2) (choose) a project on an environmental problem. Then, they 3) (work) to raise money to help solve this problem. We 4) (recently/see) your advertisements about protecting dolphins, so, for the last few weeks, we 5) (try) to learn about the dolphins that 6) (live) in the sea near here. We 7) (already/be) on two boat trips and 8) (persuade) local fishermen to change their fishing nets because the ones they 9) (use) at the moment can trap dolphins. Could you please send the children some World Wildlife Fund posters to add to the work that they 10) (do) so far?

Yours faithfully,
J. Hopkins (Teacher)

Stative Verbs

Stative Verbs

Stative verbs express a permanent state rather than an action and do not have continuous forms. These are: **verbs of the senses** (to express involuntary actions): feel, hear, see, smell, taste etc. (**Can** or **could** are often used with these verbs. *Turn the radio down, please. I can't hear you.*) **Look**, **watch** and **listen** express deliberate actions and can be used in continuous forms. *John is watching a football game on TV. He can't see or hear you.* **Feel** and **hurt** can be used in either continuous or simple forms. *John feels/is feeling worse today.*

verbs of feelings and emotions: adore, appreciate (= value), detest, dislike, enjoy, forgive, hate, like, loathe etc. *He hates the show they are watching on TV now. (not: He is hating)*

verbs of opinion: agree, believe, expect (= think), see (= understand), suppose, understand etc. *I believe he is innocent. (not: I am believing)*

other verbs: appear (= seem), belong, concern, contain, depend, fit (= be the right shape and size for sth), have (= possess), know, mean, owe, own, possess, need, prefer, require, want, weigh, wish, keep (= continue), seem etc. *He wants some more biscuits. (not: He is wanting)*

Change in the meaning

STATE

- He **thinks** he's really clever. (= he believes)
- What **does it taste** like? (= What is its flavour?)
- He **has** two houses. (= he owns; he possesses)
- The silk shirt **feels** soft. (= it has a soft texture)
- **Do you see** what I mean? (= Do you understand?)
- Your perfume **smells** of apples. (= it has the smell)
- I **love/enjoy** good films. (= I like in general)
- It **looks** as if it's going to rain. (= it appears)
- He **appears** to be working. (= he seems to be)
- The box is heavy. It **weighs** a lot. (= its weight is)
- Luciano **is** naughty. (= His character is bad.)
- These shoes **fit** me perfectly. (= They are the right size).

ACTION

- I'm **thinking** about his offer. (= I'm considering)
- He's **tasting** the food to see if it's good. (= he's testing the flavour)
- She's **having** lunch. (= she's eating)
- Ann **is feeling** the cat's fur. (= she's touching)
- I'm **seeing** Paula tonight. (= I'm meeting)
- She **is smelling** the roses. (= she's trying the smell of)
- I'm **loving/enjoying** this film. (= I like specifically)
- He **is looking** at the painting. (= he's viewing it)
- The opera singer **is appearing** on stage tonight. (= he will make an appearance)
- He **is weighing** the potatoes on the scales. (= he is finding out the weight of)
- Suzy **is being** very naughty. (= she is misbehaving)
- We **are fitting** a new carpet in the hall. (= laying)

Present Simple/ Continuous

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Fill in with Present Simple or Continuous.

- 1 A: I 1) *am thinking* (think) about visiting Jane this afternoon.
B: I wouldn't bother. I 2) (think) she's away on holiday.
- 2 A: Mr Jones 3) (have) a telephone message from his wife.
B: Can it wait? He 4) (have) a business meeting and I don't want to disturb him.
- 3 A: The police 5) (still/look) for fingerprints left in the room.
B: It 6) (look) as if they won't find the criminal.
- 4 A: I 7) (love) breathing in clean, country air!
B: So do I. I 8) (love) every minute of this walking trip.
- 5 A: I 9) Прямоугольник (see) my boss about a pay rise this afternoon.
B: I 10) (see). That's why you're wearing a suit and tie.

- 6 A: Why 11) (you/taste) the soup? Is there anything wrong with it?
B: Yes - it 12) (taste) too sweet. I think I've used sugar instead of salt.
- 7 A: Why 13) (you/feel) the baby's forehead, Mum?
B: I think she's got a temperature. She 14) (feel) rather hot.
- 8 A: John 15) (be) a very rude person, you know.
B: I know, Sheila 16) (be) very rude these days too, although she's usually polite.
- 9 A: It 17) (look) as if it's going to rain this afternoon.
B: I know. I 18) (look) for my umbrella to take out with me.
- 10 A: Why 19) (you/smell) the inside of your car?
B: Because it 20) (smell) of petrol and I want to check for leaks.
- 11 A: How much 21) (your new baby/weigh)?
B: I don't know yet. The nurse 22) (weigh) him at the moment.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you to apply for the position of Sports Editor at your newspaper. I 1) ...*have been working*... (work) as a reporter on "The Morning Globe" for eight years, and 2)
..... (write) about every major sporting event in England in that time. I 3)
(also/make) several important contacts within the sporting world such as football managers and race-horse trainers, who 4) (be) of great help to me in my career. The editor of "The World" 5) (recently/offer) me the post of Senior Sports Reporter, but as I 6) (never/really/like) the newspaper I think I will turn it down. However, I 7) (read) your newspaper since I was a young boy and I 8) (always/admire) it. I 9) (wait) for an opportunity like this to turn up all my working life. My editor 10) (agree) to give me time off to attend an interview should you wish to meet me.

Yours faithfully,
Gordon Bennett

Past Tenses

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 She opened the cupboard, took out a dress and put it on . | a past action in progress interrupted by another past action |
| 2 They received the telegram at 10 o'clock that evening. | b past action which occurred before another action or before a stated past time |
| 3 She was upset because she had been waiting to hear from her son for days . | c two or more simultaneous past actions |
| 4 They were still discussing the plan at midnight. | d action continuing over a period up to a specific time in the past |
| 5 They were flying over the Andes when the plane crashed. | e complete past action which had visible results in the past |
| 6 James Dean made one film with Natalie Wood. | f past actions which happened immediately one after the other |
| 7 Tom was reading out the data while Sara was writing it down . | g past action of certain duration which had visible results in the past |
| 8 She had finished most of the work by the time her boss arrived. | h past habit or state |
| 9 She missed the end of the film because she had fallen asleep. | i Past Perfect as the past equivalent of the Present Perfect |
| 10 He always went to work by train. | j action in the middle of happening at a stated past time |
| 11 She was pleased because she had been given the job. | k Past Perfect Continuous as the past equivalent of the Present Perfect Continuous |
| 12 We had been living in the same house for twelve years before we decided to move. | l action not connected to the present which happened at a definite past time not mentioned |
| 13 He left his job because he had been feeling dissatisfied for months . | m complete action or event which happened at a stated past time |

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Fill in with an appropriate past form.

In 1894 a steamship 1) *...was sailing...* (sail) across the Atlantic Ocean from England to America. The sun 2) (shine) and a gentle breeze 3) (blow). The ship 4) (sail) for three weeks and was halfway to its destination - New York. The passengers 5) (relax) on deck when suddenly they 6) (hear) a loud bang. They all 7) (jump) up, 8) (run) to the edge of the boat and 9) (look) over the side. To their horror they saw that they 10) (hit) some hard object which 11) (tear) a hole in the side of the ship. Water 12) (pour) into the steamship at an alarming speed. Fortunately another ship arrived half an hour later, just in time to save everyone on board.



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Fill in with Past Simple or Continuous.

Simon 1) *...was walking...* (walk) home from work the other day when he 2) (notice) something shining on the pavement on the other side of the road. A car 3) (come) down the street, so he waited until it had driven past, then he 4) (cross) over. When he 5) (get) to the other side he saw that it was a shiny gold coin! He 6) (look) around to make sure no one 7) (look), then he 8) (bend) down to pick it up. Imagine his surprise when he 9) (not/can) move it! He 10) (be) just about to give up when he 11) (hear) a strange sound behind him. Someone 12) (laugh) at him, but he couldn't see who it 13) (be). Two little boys 14) (hide) behind a hedge, laughing at anyone who tried to pick up the coin they had stuck to the pavement with glue!



21

Fill in with Past Simple or Past Perfect.

The biggest event in Tom's life 1) ...*happened*... (happen) by chance. He 2) (be) 22 and he 3) (just/leave) college. He 4) (get) his degree and he was looking for a job. He 5) (want) to be a journalist but he 6) (know) he 7) (not/have) enough experience. You see, as a student, he 8) (spend) most of his time in the university theatre. He 9) (write) to all the newspapers but he 10) (not/receive) any replies. Then one day, the phone 11) (ring). It was a woman who 12) (offer) him a job as an actor. She 13) (see) him in a play at the university and 14) (enjoy) the performance. He 15) (take) the job and since then he's been very successful. Last night he 16) (discover) he 17) (win) an award for his performance in the play.

22

Complete the sentences using any appropriate past forms.

- 1 She ...*went to the market*... and bought some vegetables.
- 2 What when the fire started?
- 3 I could tell she because her eyes were red.
- 4 She when she slipped and landed on the ice.
- 5 My arm for two weeks, before I went to the doctor.
- 6 She got on the motorbike and away.
- 7 He the road when a flower pot fell on his head.
- 8 While Sally dinner Steve was laying the table.
- 9 The patient in hospital for five weeks before he fully recovered.
- 10 He was upset because he the exam.
- 11 Nobody knew where Jane the front door key.
- 12 Tom tennis every day for months before entering his first tournament.

Used to-Be used to +ing form / noun / pronoun -Would-Was going to

- **Used to** expresses past habits, regularly repeated actions in the past or past states. (Stative verbs are not used with "would.")
- **Would** expresses regularly repeated actions and routines in the past. It isn't used for states.
- **Be used to** means "be accustomed to", "be in the habit of".
- **Was going to** expresses actions one intended to do but didn't do.

She used to tell me stories. (also: would tell me ...)
He used to live in the country. (not: would - state)
He used to have a beard. (not: would - state)

Mum would always make me a big breakfast.
(also: Mum used to make ...)

She isn't used to living in tropical climates. (= she isn't accustomed to living ...)

She was going to move to London but then she decided to stay in York.

23 Look at the notes below, then write sentences as in the example:

TEN YEARS AGO

He was fat.
He had long hair.
He didn't wear glasses.
He rode a bicycle.
He didn't wear suits.



NOW

He is thin.
He has got short hair.
He wears glasses.
He drives a car.
He wears suits.



He used to be fat but he is thin now.

.....
.....

Fill in: used to, be used to, would or was going to.

Although my friend Tom has lived in the city for three years he still 1) *...isn't used to...* it. He 2) live in the country so he 3) living in a more peaceful environment. His first few days in the city were so unpleasant that he 4) move straight back home, but he found a job and decided to stay. That's when I met him. He 5) come into my office with the coffee every morning and he 6) often stop and talk for a while about what his life 7) be like in the country. His family 8) have their own vegetable garden and his mother 9) prepare wonderful meals. In autumn they 10) go for long walks and they 11) collect wild mushrooms and fruit. Tom made it sound so wonderful that, at one point last year, I 12) quit my job and leave town forever. But I didn't. I 13) too the noise and excitement of the city to ever feel at home in the country.

