

VERB TENSES PRACTICE SHEET

A) Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple or the past continuous.

My friends and I (1) (enjoy) my birthday party when suddenly the lights (2) (go) out. I (3) (think) that my brother (4) (try) to scare everyone. I (5) (shout), 'Switch the lights on!' but nothing (6) (happen). While we (7) (wait) in the darkness, somebody (8) (scream). Suddenly, I felt scared!

B) Complete the passage with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Present Simple, Present Continuous, Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

Today, it(1).....(seem) that everyone recognises the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh. However, few people.....(2).....(know) the sad details of his difficult life. Van Gogh was born in 1853 in a small village in the Netherlands. He drew pictures when he was a boy, but(3).....(not consider) art as a career. When he was 16 years old, he ...(4)..... (go) to work for a company which bought and sold art. He had periods of deep depression, which(5).....(affect) his work, and as a result, the company ...(6).....(dismiss) him 1876. Van Gogh then(7).....(teach) in England and later(8).....(give) Bible lessons in Belgium. He finally decided to become an artist. Between 1880 and 1890, while he(9).....(produce) his famous paintings and drawings, he suffered from frequent periods of depression. On 27 July 1890, when he was 37, he(10).....(shoot) himself. He died two days later.

C) Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- She wasn't born in Coruña, but she(1)...(move) here when she was two.
- Sharon(2).....(think) about your idea at the moment.
- I(3).....(write) in my diary every day.
- That little boy(4).....(not enjoy) the pony ride. Look, he is crying!
-(5)...(they / know) my address? Perhaps we should call them.
- Mark(6).....(bring) soft drinks to yesterday's meeting.
-(7).....(the wind / frighten) you last night?
- Yesterday at nine, I(8)..... (have dinner) at home.
- Halle Berry(9)..... (marry) Kevin Grant last year.
-(10).....(you / pay) the phone bill yesterday?

D) Complete the text with the correct tense of the verbs in brackets. Use the present simple, present continuous, past simple, past continuous, present perfect or present perfect continuous.

My brother, Sam, (1)..... (go) to a gallery last week to see an exhibition by a new artist. While Sam (2) (look) at one of the paintings, a man (3) (appear) next to him. The man asked, '(4) you (enjoy) the exhibition?' Sam said, 'It's very good, but I (5) (not understand) this painting.' 'Really? That's interesting,' the man replied. Sam said, 'I (6)..... (stare) at it for a long time, but I (7) (not decide) if I like it yet. The subject is interesting but the style and colours are a bit simple. What do you think? (8)..... you ever (see) this artist before?' 'Yes,' he replied, 'I am the artist.' Sam (9) (blush) but the man said, 'Don't worry. I like talking about my paintings and I (10)..... (prefer) people to be honest.'

E) FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE RIGHT FORM OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS.

- Julia ____1____ (study) in London this year, and she really loves ____2____ (be) there.
- When you ____3____ (ring), I was having a bath, so I couldn't answer the phone.
- The meeting ____4____ (already/finish). We can go home now.
- She ____5____ (just/arrive) home. I'll give her your message.
- "How long ____6____ (you/live) in this flat?" "I bought it last summer"
- They ____7____ (get) married next month.
- ____8____ (write) a novel is not as difficult as it seems, if you use your imagination.
- When we were children we never ____9____ (throw) stones or ____10____ (break) anything. We were very peaceful and quiet.
- While my brothers ____11____ (study), I ____12____ (listen) to music in my room. I didn't want to disturb them.
- Who ____13____ (teach) you to play tennis? My father did.
- She has decided she ____14____ (study) Economics at University next year.
- I ____15____ (not go) to school yesterday because I ____16____ (not feel) well.
- How often ____17____ (Tom/play) tennis?
- Ann ____18____ (wait) for me when I ____19____ (arrive).
- Can you ski? No but I ____20____ (learn).
- I am so tired! I ____21____ (work) non-stop for the last four hours!
- She ____22____ (not/ be) to Athens before she went with her friends last summer.
- Tomorrow at this time, we ____23____ (have) our maths class.
- Don't forget ____24____ (buy) some milk!
- By the end of this term, you ____25____ (do) many exams.

F) Complete the sentences with the correct tense of the verbs in brackets.

-(1)..... (sing) in the shower helps me to relax.
- Amy ... (2)... (write) a text message to Carl when Rob ... (3)... (phone) her.
-(4)... (tidy) every room in the house becomes the most important thing in life for some people, and it ... (5)... (control) their lives completely.
- He is usually very serious. He ... (6)... (not / often / smile) but he ... (7)... (smile) at her now because he is happy.
-(8)..... (ever / ride) a horse? No, never. This is the first time.
- Tom(9)..... (burn) his hand when he(10)..... (cook) his dinner.
- My hands are dirty because I ... (11)... (repair) my bike. I ... (12)... (just / finish)!
- At the moment, Sonia (13)... (look) for a place to live. She ... (14)... (stay) with her sister until she finds somewhere.
- How often (15)... (you / clean) your car? It depends on how dirty it is.
- Would you like something to eat? No, thanks, I ... (16)... (just / have) lunch.
- Last night I (17)..... (drop) a plate when I (18)..... (do) the washing up. Fortunately, it (19)..... (not / break).
- There is an ambulance over there because there ... (20)... (be) an accident.
- In ten years' time, you ... (21)... (leave) university and perhaps you ... (22)... (live) in another country.
- People ... (23)... (shake) hands in most countries.
- This animal sometimes ... (24)... (change) colour. At the moment it ... (25)... (not / move); it ... (26)... (watch) its next meal.
- I can't believe how much you ... (27)... (change) since the last time I ... (28)... (see) you.
- In 1967, two men ... (29)... (sail) near Miami when they ... (30)... (send) a message asking for help.
- I ... (31)... (be) angry because there ... (32)... (be / not) enough eggs in the fridge when I needed them.
- If you like water, ... (33)... (swim) is great exercise.
- My best friend and I ... (34)... (know) each other for over fifteen years. We still get together once a week.
- Tonight, between 9.00 and 9.30, we ... (35)... (watch) our favourite TV show.
- ... (36)... (you / do) your homework before 5?

ANSWER KEY:

A) Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple or the past continuous.

My friends and I (1) ...WERE ENJOYING.. (enjoy) my birthday party when suddenly the lights (2) ...WENT.. (go) out. I (3)THOUGHT... (think) that my brother (4) ...WAS TRYING..... (try) to scare everyone. I (5)SHOUTED.... (shout), 'Switch the lights on!' but nothing (6)HAPPENED..... (happen). While we (7)WERE WAITING..... (wait) in the darkness, somebody (8)SCREAMED.... (scream). Suddenly, I felt scared!

B) Complete the passage with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Present Simple, Present Continuous, Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

Today, itSEEMS.....(seem) that everyone recognises the paintings of Vincent Van Gogh. However, few people...KNOW.....(know) the sad details of his difficult life. Van Gogh was born in 1853 in a small village in the Netherlands. He drew pictures when he was a boy, butDIDN'T CONSIDER.....(not consider) art as a career. When he was 16 years old, he ...WENT..... (go) to work for a company which bought and sold art. He had periods of deep depression, whichAFFECTED.....(affect) his work, and as a result, the company ...DISMISSED.....(dismiss) him 1876. Van Gogh then ...TAUGHT..... (teach) in England and laterGAVE.....(give) Bible lessons in Belgium. He finally decided to become an artist. Between 1880 and 1890, while heWAS PRODUCING... (produce) his famous paintings and drawings, he suffered from frequent periods of depression. On 27 July 1890, when he was 37, he ...SHOT..... (shoot) himself. He died two days later.

C) Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Present Simple, Present Continuous, Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

- She wasn't born in Coruña, but sheMOVED.....(move) here when she was two.
- SharonIS THINKING.....(think) about your idea at the moment.
- IWRITE.....(write) in my diary every day.
- That little boy ...IS NOT ENJOYING.....(not enjoy) the pony ride. Look, he is crying!
-DO THEY KNOW.....(they / know) my address? Perhaps we should call them.
- MarkBROUGHT.....(bring) soft drinks to yesterday's meeting.
-DID THE WIND FRIGHTEN.....(the wind / frighten) you last night?
- Yesterday at nine, IWAS HAVING DINNER..... (have dinner) at home.
- Halle BerryMARRIED..... (marry) Kevin Grant last year.
-DID YOU PAY.....(you / pay) the phone bill yesterday?

D) Complete the text with the correct tense of the verbs in brackets. Use the present simple, present continuous, past simple, past continuous, present perfect or present perfect continuous.

My brother, Sam, (1)....WENT..... (go) to a gallery last week to see an exhibition by a new artist. While Sam (2)....WAS LOOKING..... (look) at one of the paintings, a man (3)APPEARED... (appear) next to him. The man asked, '(4) ARE you ENJOYING..... (enjoy) the exhibition?' Sam said, 'It's very good, but I (5) ...DON'T UNDERSTAND.. (not understand) this painting.' 'Really? That's interesting,' the man replied. Sam said, 'I (6)....HAVE BEEN STARING..... (stare) at it for a long time, but I (7) ...HAVEN'T DECIDED... (not decide) if I like it yet. The subject is interesting but the style and colours are a bit simple. What do you think? (8)HAVE.... you ever ...SEEN..... (see) this artist before?' 'Yes,' he replied, 'I am the artist.' Sam (9) ...BLUSHED..... (blush) but the man said, 'Don't worry. I like talking about my paintings and I (10)PREFER..... (prefer) people to be honest.'

E) FILL IN THE GAPS WITH THE RIGHT FORM OF THE VERBS IN BRACKETS.

- Julia IS STUDYING (study) in London this year, and she really loves BEING (be) there
- When you RANG (ring), I was having a bath, so I couldn't answer the phone.
- The meeting HAS ALREADY FINISHED (already/finish). We can go home now.
- She HAS JUST ARRIVED (just/arrive) home. I'll give her your message.
- "How long HAVE YOU LIVED (you/live) in this flat?" "I bought it last summer"
- They ARE GETTING (get) married next month.
- WRITING (write) a novel is not as difficult as it seems, if you use your imagination.
- When we were children we never THREW (throw) stones or BROKE (break) anything. We were very peaceful and quiet.
- While my brothers WERE STUDYING (study), I WAS LISTENING (listen) to music in my room. I didn't want to disturb them.
- Who TAUGHT (teach) you to play tennis? My father did.
- She has decided she IS GOING TO STUDY (study) Economics at University next year.
- I DIDN'T GO (not go) to school yesterday because I WASN'T FEELING (not feel) well.
- How often DOES TOM PLAY (Tom/play) tennis?
- Ann WAS WAITING (wait) for me when I ARRIVED (arrive).
- Can you ski? No but I AM LEARNING (learn).
- I am so tired! I HAVE BEEN WORKING (work) non-stop for the last four hours!
- She HAD NOT BEEN (not/ be) to Athens before she went with her friends last summer.
- Tomorrow at this time, we WILL BE HAVING (have) our maths class.
- Don't forget TO BUY (buy) some milk!
- By the end of this term, you WILL HAVE DONE (do) many exams.

F) Complete the sentences with the correct tense of the verbs in brackets.

-SINGING (sing) in the shower helps me to relax.
- Amy ...WAS WRITING... (write) a text message to Carl when Rob ...PHONED... (phone) her.
- ...TIDYING..... (tidy) every room in the house becomes the most important thing in life for some people, and it ...CONTROLS..... (control) their lives completely.
- He is usually very serious. HeDOES NOT OFTEN..... (not / often / smile) but he ...IS SMILING... (smile) at her now because he is happy.
- ...HAVE YOU EVER RIDDEN..... (ever / ride) a horse? No, never.
- TomBURNT... (burn) his hand when he ...WAS COOKING... (cook) his dinner.
- My hands are dirty because I ...HAVE BEEN REPAIRING...(repair) my bike. I...HAVE JUST FINISHED...(just/finish)!
- At the moment, Sonia ...IS LOOKING... (look) for a place to live. She ...IS STAYING... (stay) with her sister until she finds somewhere.
- How often ...DO YOU CLEAN... (you / clean) your car? It depends on how dirty it is.
- Would you like something to eat? No, thanks, I ...HAVE JUST HAD...(just / have) lunch.
- Last night I ...DROPPED... (drop) a plate when I ...WAS DOING..... (do) the washing up. Fortunately, itDIDN'T BREAK..... (not / break).
- There is an ambulance over there because there ...HAS BEEN... (be) an accident.
- In ten years' time, you ...WILL HAVE LEFT...(leave) university and perhaps you ...WILL BE LIVING...(live) in another country.
- People ...SHAKE..... (shake) hands in most countries.
- This animal sometimes ...CHANGES... (change) colour. At the moment it...IS NOT MOVING... (not / move), itIS WATCHING..... (watch) its next meal.
- I can't believe how much you ...HAVE CHANGED... (change) since the last time I ...SAW... (see) you.
- In 1967, two men ...WERE SAILING...(sail) near Miami when they ...SENT...(send) a message asking for help.
- I ...WAS... (be) angry because there ...WEREN'T... (be / not) enough eggs in the fridge when I needed them.
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