**Tenses Exercise**

SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 - [pdf](https://www.englishgrammar.org/tenses-exercise-16/?pdf=8007)

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate tense form.

1. When I opened my eyes, I ………………. a strange sight.

saw

was seeing

have seen

**Correct!**

We use the simple past tense to talk about two quickly finished actions in the past.

2. Every morning she …………….. up early and gets ready for work.

is waking

wakes

has woken

**Correct!**

We use the simple present tense to talk about habits and routines.

3. If I knew what he wanted, I ………………. this.

will not permit

would not permit

would not have permitted

**Wrong!**

We use the second conditional to talk about imaginary situations. In the second conditional, we use a simple past tense in the if-clause and would + infinitive in the main clause.

4. I ………………….. anything from her in a long time.

didn't hear

haven't heard

am not hearing

**Correct!**

5. The headmaster ……………… to talk to you.

want

wants

is wanting

**Correct!**

The simple present is used to talk about facts.

6. Jane ………………. with her parents.

is living

lives

has lived

**Correct!**

We use the simple present to talk about permanent situations.

7. We ..................... Greece next month.

visit

will visit

would visit

are visiting

**Wrong!**

The present continuous tense can be used to talk about future events if the arrangement already exists.

8. The moon …………….. around the earth.

is revolving

has revolved

revolves

**Correct!**

We use the simple present to talk about facts and general truths.

9. She ………………… a novel.

wrote

writes

has written

**Wrong!**

We use the present perfect here because there is no reference to time.

10. All students ………………. in their work.

handed

have handed

hand

**Correct!**

11. I …………………. English for twelve years.

am teaching

have been teaching

will be teaching

**Correct!**

We use the present perfect continuous tense to talk about actions and situations that started in the past and have continued up to the present.

12. The students ............................. their dialogues.

rehearse

are rehearsing

Either could be used here

**Correct!**

We use the present continuous to talk about actions and situations that are going on at the moment of speaking.

Answers

1. When I opened my eyes, I **saw** a strange sight.  
2. Every morning she**wakes** up early and gets ready for work.  
3. If I knew what he wanted, I **would not permit** this.  
4. I **haven’t heard** anything from her in a long time.  
5. The headmaster **wants** to talk to you.  
6. Jane **lives** with her parents.  
7. We **are visiting** Greece next month.  
8. The moon **revolves** around the earth.  
9. She **has written** a novel.  
10. All students**have handed** in their work.  
11. I**have been teaching** English for twelve years.  
12. The students **are rehearsing** their dialogues.