

Tense Forms

1

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 They are getting married this summer. | a fixed arrangements in the near future |
| 2 The robber waves his gun and everyone gets down on the floor. | b personal experiences/changes that have happened |
| 3 The sun rises in the east and sets in the west. | c actions taking place at or around the moment of speaking; temporary situations |
| 4 The course starts on 10th October. | d actions started at a stated time in the past and continuing up to the present |
| 5 Clare is looking for a new flat. | e reviews/sports commentaries/dramatic narratives |
| 6 We've been sharing a flat for years. | f permanent situations or states |
| 7 They employ staff from all over the world. | g permanent truths or laws of nature |
| 8 Paula has become more independent since starting university. | h emphasis on duration of an action that began in the past and continues up to the present |
| 9 The child has been missing since last night. | i timetables/programmes (future meaning) |
| 1 ...a... 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 | |

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Bill always stops to buy milk on his way to work. | a past actions of certain duration having visible results/effects in the present |
| 2 The new serial is growing in popularity. | b changing or developing situations |
| 3 There goes the last bus! | c recently completed actions |
| 4 Scientists have just discovered a way to prevent memory loss. | d exclamatory sentences |
| 5 Andrea has phoned me every day this week. | e frequently repeated actions with 'always' expressing the speaker's annoyance or criticism |
| 6 Laura is always criticising my appearance. | f actions which happened at an unstated past time and are connected to the present |
| 7 I feel exhausted as I have been working on my assignment all night. | g emphasis on number, frequency |
| 8 He's been asking to borrow money again. | h repeated/habitual actions |
| 9 The Kellys have moved to Manchester. | i expressing anger, irritation, annoyance or criticism |
| 1 ...h... 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 | |

3 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present forms.

Dear Greg and Christine,

I 1) ...*am writing*... (**write**) to thank you for coming to our wedding reception last month. I hope you enjoyed yourselves.

Mark and I 2) (**just/return**) from our trip to Kenya. We 3) (**just/move**) into our new house and since we returned we 4) (**spend**) all our free time decorating. The house 5) (**actually/begin**) to feel like home now and we 6) (**gradually/settle**) into a routine. We 7) (**have**) breakfast together in the morning, but then we 8) (**not/see**) each other until late in the evening when we 9) (**get**) home from work.

I hope both of you 10) (**be**) well since we last saw you.

Best regards,

Mark and Sheila Roberts

Tense Forms

Stative verbs express a permanent state rather than an action and do not have continuous forms. These are: **verbs of the senses** (used to express involuntary actions): **feel, hear, see, smell, taste** etc. *I **see** someone standing at the front door.* **Verbs of feelings and emotions:** **adore, detest, dislike, enjoy, forgive, hate, like** etc. *She really **enjoys** cooking for her friends.* **Verbs of opinion:** **agree, believe, suppose, understand** etc. *I **don't believe** he's coming.* **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. *This skirt **fits** you perfectly.*

Note: **Feel** and **hurt** can be used in continuous or simple forms. *Ann **is feeling/feels** tired.* **Listen, look** and **watch** express deliberate actions and can be used in continuous forms. *They **are looking** at some pictures.*

Some **stative verbs** (be, love, see, smell, taste, think etc) have continuous forms but there is a difference in meaning.

STATE

- I **see** exactly what you mean. (= I understand)
- Peter **thinks** he knows everything. (= He believes)
- They **have** a villa in Portugal. (= They own)
- A baby's skin **feels** very smooth. (= It has a smooth texture)
- This soup **tastes** of garlic. (= It has the taste of garlic)
- The room **smells** of fresh flowers. (= It has the smell of)
- Most people **love/enjoy** eating out. (= They like in general)
- Peter **is** a difficult person to get on with. (= His character is difficult)
- He **looks** as if he's going to faint. (= He appears)
- The patient **appears** to be recovering. (= He seems to be)
- Sam now **weighs** more than his father. (= His weight is greater)
- My uniform **doesn't fit** me. (= It isn't the right size).

ACTION

- She **is seeing** a lawyer tonight. (= She's meeting)
- He **is thinking** of studying Law. (= He is considering)
- He **is having** problems. (= He is experiencing)
- He **is feeling** the engine to see how hot it is. (= He's touching)
- Why are you **tasting** the curry? (= Why are you testing the flavour?)
- Why **are you smelling** that meat? (= Why are you checking its smell?)
- She **is loving/is enjoying** every minute of her holiday. (= She likes specifically)
- Jane **is being** particularly generous this week. (= She is behaving generously)
- They **are looking** at the photos. (= They are viewing)
- Simply Red **are appearing** on stage next week. (= They are giving a performance)
- The doctor **is weighing** the baby. (= She is finding out its weight)
- We **are fitting** a new kitchen next week. (= installing)

4

Fill in with Present Simple or Continuous.

- 1 A: I ...*am seeing*... (**see**) an old friend tonight.
B: I (**see**) – so you won't be able to meet me after work, will you?
- 2 A: Why (**you/smell**) the milk?
B: It (**smell**) a bit strange. I think it might have gone off.
- 3 A: (**you/enjoy**) reading Jane Austen's novels?
B: Not usually, but I (**enjoy**) this particular one.
- 4 A: Why (**John/be**) so bad-tempered today?
B: I don't know. He (**be**) usually so easy to get on with.
- 5 A: Carol and I (**think**) of getting married.
B: (**you/think**) that's a good idea? You haven't known each other for very long.
- 6 A: (**you/have**) the phone number of a good business consultant?
B: Why? (**you/have**) problems at work?
- 7 A: (**the singer/appear**) tonight?
B: Unfortunately not. She (**appear**) to have lost her voice.

- 8 A: Why (you/taste) the lemonade?
 B: It (taste) a little bitter. I think I'll add some more sugar.
- 9 A: I hear the Fords (look) for a bigger house.
 B: Yes, it (look) as if they are going to move.
- 10 A: How much (the parcel/weigh)?
 B: I'm not sure. The assistant (weigh) it at the moment.

Have gone to / Have been to / Have been in

- *She has gone to the bank.* (She's on her way to the bank or she's there now. She hasn't come back yet.)
- *She has been to New Orleans.* (She has visited New Orleans but she isn't there now. She has come back.)
- *She has been in the Hague for four years.* (She lives in the Hague now.)

5 Fill in has/have been to/in, has/have gone to.

- How long ...*has*... she ...*been in*... York?
- Sheila Brussels twice this year.
- Mum the supermarket. She'll be back in about an hour.
- Sam isn't in the office. He a meeting.
- Mr Smith Paris for nearly three years.

Since expresses a starting point. *She's been working here since November.*
For expresses the duration of an action. *They've been in Hawaii for two weeks.*

6 Fill in since or for.

Animals have been a source of help and comfort to humans
 1) ...*since*... history began, and we have known 2)
 years that animals make people gentler and more relaxed.
 3) a long time the question has been how exactly
 animals can change people. Some researchers believe that
 stroking a pet helps to relieve anxiety and tension and,
 4) the 1960s, therapists have believed that animals'
 remarkable powers can be used to heal our bodies and minds.
 This belief has actually been confirmed 5) the discovery
 that seriously ill people live longer if they have a pet to care for.



7 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct present forms.

- George Smith ...*has been training*... (train) for this match for months. He (practise) at least four hours a day for the last two weeks and he (say) that now he (feel) confident. However, he (face) a difficult opponent tonight. Palmer (win) several games recently, and he (look) determined to win this one too. The match (be) about to start, so let's watch and see what (happen).
- Louisa usually (go) to work by tube, but today she (go) there in a chauffeur-driven limousine. The reason for this (be) that she (just/win) the young business person award, and as part of the prize people (treat) her like royalty.
- Mary (dye) her hair for years. She (go) to the hairdresser once a week and (try) every colour you can imagine. She (say) she (want) to match her hair with her clothes. I (ask) her for ages why she (not/keep) her natural colour but she (say) she (forget) what it is!