

Fill in the blanks with an appropriate tense form.

**1. I knew she ..... arrive before long.**

will  
would  
may

When the verb in the main clause is in the past tense, we will need a past tense in the subordinate clause as well.

**2. I will call you when I ..... ready.**

will be  
am  
was

When the verb in the main clause is in the future tense, we use a present tense in the subordinate clause to refer to the future.

**3. It ..... before long.**

is raining  
is going to rain  
Either could be used here

We do not normally use the present continuous to make predictions about events that are outside people's control.

**4. You ..... cricket in my garden.**

are not playing  
are not going to play  
Either could be used here

**5. We ..... a new car next month.**

are getting  
are going to get  
Either could be used here

Both the present continuous and going to can be used to talk about future events that are already planned.

**6. She ..... here since July.**

is working  
has been working  
had worked

We use the present perfect continuous tense to talk about an action or situation that started in the past and has continued up to the present.

**7. I ..... my wallet at home.**

had left  
left  
have left

We normally use the present perfect tense to talk about finished events when there is no time reference. The simple past is also possible here.

**8. It would be nice if you ..... me a bit with the housework.**

help  
helped  
will help  
had helped

In the second conditional, we use a simple past tense in the if-clause and would + infinitive in the main clause.

**9. Hardly had I arrived when trouble .....**

started  
start  
would start

When the verb in the main clause is in the past tense, we will need a past tense in the subordinate clause as well.

**10. How long ..... a doctor?**

are you  
have you been  
were you

We often use the present perfect to talk about how long present situations have lasted.

**11. I have ..... in this city for ten years.**

lived  
been living  
Either could be used here

The present perfect and the present perfect continuous can both be used to talk about actions and situations that started in the past and have continued up to the present.

**12. One day scientists ..... to find a cure for cancer.**

be able to  
can  
will be able  
are able to

We often use 'will be able to' to talk about future possibility and ability.

PLAY AGAIN !

## Answers

1. I knew she **would** arrive before long.
2. I will call you when I **am** ready.
3. It **is going to rain** before long.
4. You **are not playing / are not going to play** cricket in my garden.
5. We **are getting / are going to get** a new car next month.
6. She **has been working** here since July.
7. I **have left / left** my wallet at home.
8. It would be nice if you **helped** me a bit with the housework.
9. Hardly had I arrived when trouble **started**.
10. How long **have you been** a doctor?
11. I **have lived / have been living** in this city for ten years.
12. One day scientists **will be able to** find a cure for cancer.