

# THE BEST ACT PREP COURSE EVER

## VERB TENSE SHIFT

*ACT English: Problem Set*

1. Built hundreds of years ago, the ancient temple has disintegrated from weathering and erosion. Still standing is one pillar that is constructed of limestone— and a host of extremely rare forms of marble— and display ancient script yet to be decoded.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. have displayed  
C. are displaying  
D. displays
2. Live musical performances may be viewed as more powerful and memorable than digital recordings. Music comes alive on stage, as past singers and musicians must understand when they saw how audiences responded.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. have understand  
C. have understood  
D. understood
3. On the first day, he asked his orchestra conductor when afterschool rehearsals were to have started; he wanted to plan ahead so he could complete his homework in advance.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. were started  
C. would start  
D. starts
4. Cool, dry temperatures typically characterize spring evenings while daytime climate varies until late in the season. A subsequent rise in temperature of the region produce summer's recognizable warm nights.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. had produced  
C. produces  
D. produced
5. Yesterday I learned how to ski on the lower slopes. This morning I put my new skiing abilities to the test on the mountains higher up because the snow being of the best quality there.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. is by them considered to be  
C. is said to be  
D. having been
6. She was only thirteen when she interviewed the microbiology professor, but Jess had already imagined herself conducting research and working in a laboratory in the future.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. have already imagined her  
C. had already imagine her  
D. had already imagined herself
7. We are preparing for the second annual Robot-a-thon Challenge. The winner would have been the robot that is able to pick up and put the most rubber balls into the basket within 3 minutes.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. has been  
C. would be  
D. will be
8. For more than a decade, extensive planning transpired to build a complete highway system centered in East Los Angeles. In the 1960's, the complex was built by the city and has became the East L.A. Interchange.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. have become  
C. became  
D. become
9. As air travel became common among middle class citizens in the mid-twentieth century, the quality of flights improved. Taking a flight, by definition, meaning skipping the traffic and inconveniences of travel on the ground.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. meant skipping  
C. meaning to skip  
D. meant that skipping
10. Doubts were arisen about the vaccine's safety. Additionally, the study results were inconclusive whether such an injection was reliably successful at disease prevention.  
A. NO CHANGE  
B. arose  
C. had arised  
D. arised

11. Our hike at Red Rocks last fall began with tumultuous winds. It was November, and our rain gear was unfit for strong gales, but we would have needed such lightweight ponchos to minimize our load as we climbed the steeper, more challenging portions of the trail.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. would need  
C. will need  
D. need
12. A plate of fresh cookies sat beside an elaborate vase on the tidy, tiled kitchen table. Everything had smelled like cinnamon and looked like the inside of a country ranch.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. smelled like cinnamon and looked  
C. will smell like cinnamon and look  
D. smells like cinnamon and looks
13. She pleaded to attend ballet school until her mother gave in. Audrey not only surpassed her mother's expectations but also grew into one of the finest ballerinas in the area.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. also growing  
C. she also will have grown  
D. she also had grown
14. Our city's farmer's market is the epicenter of locally-sourced food. Every weekend, people flock to the main street entrance, which had been clearly designated.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. are  
C. is  
D. were being
15. Basquiat's 1982 painting "Untitled"—portraying a skull in spray paint and oil stick—recently sold for \$110.5 million. With this sale, it had become the sixth most expensive work to be sold at auction.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. became  
C. has become  
D. becomes
16. Electrical engineers have needed to devise ways of safely bringing power to some of the most remote areas of the United States. On an open parcel of land near Las Vegas Nevada, the Colorado River Canyon supports several circular balloons strung on power cables to alert aircraft.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. string  
C. stringed  
D. strung up
17. Marcel watched the basketball game intently, and when his favorite player has shotten a basket, he would erupt with enthusiasm for the team.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. shot  
C. shoots  
D. had shot
18. The popular tourist destination and archaeological site known as the Mammoth Caves National Park in Kentucky had began to form around 10 million years ago.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. begun forming  
C. began to form  
D. begun to form
19. Sprinting as fast as I can, I follow the squirrel as it bounces through the long grass and up a tree towards its enormous stockpile of food.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. I followed  
C. were I to follow  
D. if I follow
20. Every year, the city celebrated its history with a festival. To prepare for the event, city officials will recruit local families to volunteer as hosts to out of town visitors.
- A. NO CHANGE  
B. has recruited  
C. is recruiting  
D. would recruit

**ANSWER KEY**

1. D   2. C   3. C   4. C   5. C   6. D   7. D   8. C   9. B   10. B   11. B   12. B   13. A   14. C  
15. B   16. A   17. B   18. C   19. A   20. D

**ANSWER EXPLANATIONS**

1. D      The subject “pillar” is singular, so the verb must also be singular “displays.”
2. C      The auxiliary verb “have” accompanies the verb “understand,” which needs to be in the past tense “understood” to create the past perfect tense.
3. C      “Would” is an auxiliary verb that functions to talk about the future in the past. In this sentence, rehearsals were set to start in the future of the past.
4. C      The subject “rise” is singular, so the verb needs to be singular “produces.”
5. C      The phrase “is said to be” appropriately uses the present participle to indicate ongoing action and avoids redundancy.
6. D      The past participle “imagined” must be used with “had” to create the past perfect and to refer to this event that started in the past of the past (i.e. the imagining happened before this moment in the past).
7. D      The future progressive tense is used because the contest will take place at some point in the future, because the preceding sentence indicating preparation is in the present. Thus, “will be” is the appropriate form and replaces “would have been.” “Will” is the future of the present tense. “Would” is the future of the past.
8. C      The past tense “became” is best. It matches the tense of the verb in parallel construction (“was built”) that is joined to this verb with the compound joining word “and.”
9. B      The verb “to mean” needs to be in the past tense because air travel rose in the mid-twentieth century (i.e. a date in the past). A date in the past typically takes the past tense. The phrase should read “meant skipping.”
10. B      The event of giving the nasal vaccine happened only once in the past, so the verb “to arise” must be in the past tense “arose.” Arose is used when an object occurs without another object acting upon it. Rise is used when one force acts upon another (i.e. transitive verb).
11. B      “Would” is an auxiliary verb used in this sentence to talk about the future in a sentence otherwise in the past. In this sentence, the author is looking forward in time to what would occur once the hike is underway. Would generally is the future of the past. “Would have needed” implies a conditional statement that is inappropriate in context.
12. B      The first sentence is in the simple past tense, so the sentence that follows should also be in the simple past tense.
13. A      The sentence appropriately uses the past tense because the verb in question is parallel to the idea “surpassed” (also in the past tense).
14. C      The action of seeing the sign needs to be in the present tense, so the correct verb form is “is.” It is consistent with the tense of the preceding sentence.
15. B      The sale happened only once and it was in the past, so the verb “to become” has to be in the past tense “became.”
16. A      The appropriate past tense form of “to string” is used in this sentence as a past participle— i.e. a form that functions as an adjective.
17. B      “Shotten” does not exist as a form of the verb “to shoot.” The appropriate form is “shot” because the game already took place.
18. C      The simple past tense “began” is needed to describe the fact that the beginning of cave formation occurred only once in the past. “Begun” is the participle form, but not the past tense form.
19. A      The present tense is appropriately used in this sentence.
20. D      Because the celebration was a recurring event, the verb “would” must show that repetition in the past. Thus, “would decide” is best. “Would” pairs with the past tense, while “will” pairs with the present tense.