MET Education Name: _____ Date: _____

Mixed Tenses in Paragraphs

Clue words help you choose the tense · read the sentences around each blank too

Clue words	Tense	Clue words	Tense
every day · usually · often	Simple present	just · yet · never · so far	Present perfect
now · at the moment	Present continuous	by the time · never … before	Past perfect
yesterday · last week	Simple past	for / since + still going on	Present perfect continuous
tomorrow · next week	Going to / will	this time tomorrow	Future continuous
while · was doing … when	Past continuous	by + a future time	Future perfect

PART A An email

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in brackets. The tenses are mixed.

Hi Ben,

I 1 _____ (write) this on the bus home. Guess what? I

2 _____ (just join) the school band. We 3 _____

(practise) every Tuesday, and I 4 _____ (learn) to play the

drums for three weeks. This time next Friday, I

5 _____ (play) at our first concert! I am sure I

6 _____ (feel) nervous. By the time you visit in December, I

7 _____ (learn) ten new songs.

Best wishes, Paul

PART B A diary

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in brackets. The tenses are mixed.

Saturday

This afternoon, Mum and I 1 _____ (take) the MTR to Mong Kok to buy Grandpa a present.

While we 2 _____ (walk) to the shop, it suddenly 3 _____ (begin) to

rain. By the time we got there, the shop 4 _____ (already

close)! So we 5 _____ (buy) a mug at the gift shop next door. I

6 _____ (never try) bubble tea before today, but now it 7 _____

(be) my favourite drink. Right now, I 8 _____ (drink) my second cup! I hope

Grandpa 9 _____ (like) his mug.

PART C A news report

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in brackets. The tenses are mixed.

Student's Robot Wins First Prize

Form 3 student Daniel Smith 1 _____ (just win) first prize in the Young Scientist Competition. His robot, Sorty, 2 _____ (sort) rubbish into plastic, paper and metal. Daniel first 3 _____ (have) the idea while he 4 _____ (help) his grandmother with the recycling. Next week, the school 5 _____ (show) a video of Sorty in the hall. Daniel 6 _____ (build) a second robot for two months. "By the end of next month, I 7 _____ (finish) it," he said. "This time next week, I 8 _____ (show) Sorty at the city science fair."

PART D A story

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in brackets. The tenses are mixed.

The Lost Phone

Last Friday, Margaret 1 _____ (wait) for the bus when she 2 _____ (notice) a phone on the bench. She looked around, but the owner 3 _____ (already go). Just then, the phone 4 _____ (ring). "Thank you for answering!" said a girl. "I 5 _____ (never lose) my phone before!" Ten minutes later, the girl, Lucy, 6 _____ (arrive). Now the two girls 7 _____ (be) good friends, and they often 8 _____ (go) to the library together.

Answers **A** 1 am writing · 2 have just joined · 3 practise · 4 have been learning / have learnt / have learned · 5 will be playing / am going to be playing · 6 will feel / am going to feel / will be feeling · 7 will have learnt / will have learned **B** 1 took · 2 were walking · 3 began · 4 had already closed · 5 bought · 6 had never tried · 7 is · 8 am drinking · 9 likes / will like **C** 1 has just won · 2 sorts · 3 had · 4 was helping · 5 is going to show / will show / is showing · 6 has been building · 7 will have finished · 8 will be showing **D** 1 was waiting · 2 noticed · 3 had already gone · 4 rang · 5 have never lost · 6 arrived · 7 are · 8 go

Short forms (I'm, I'll, hasn't) are also correct.

Want more practice? Ten tense booklets, one tense each, with notes, exercises and answers.

Simple Present · Present Continuous · Simple Past · Future with Going to and Will · Past Continuous · Present Perfect · Past Perfect · Present Perfect Continuous · Future Continuous · Future Perfect

myenglishtutorhk.com

Free sample. You may print it for your own use or for one class. Please do not sell it, change it or upload it anywhere.