MET Education Name: _____ Date: _____

Senior Tenses Exercises

The 10 tenses at a glance · p.p. = past participle · bold = clue words

1. **Simple present** — verb (+ s / es) · does not + verb
   Mia walks to school **every day**.
2. **Present continuous** — am / is / are + -ing
   Look! It is snowing.
3. **Simple past** — verb + -ed / irregular
   We visited Grandma **yesterday**.
4. **Going to / will** — be going to + verb · will + verb
   It is going to rain. I'll take an umbrella.
5. **Past continuous** — was / were + -ing
   I was reading **when** you called.
6. **Present perfect** — have / has + p.p.
   She has **just** finished her lunch.
7. **Past perfect** — had + p.p.
   The bus had left **by the time** we arrived.
8. **Present perfect continuous** — have / has been + -ing
   I have been waiting **for an hour**.
9. **Future continuous** — will be + -ing
   At eight tonight, I will be studying.
10. **Future perfect** — will have + p.p.
    By Friday, we will have finished.

Clue words help, but always think about the meaning of the whole sentence.

PART A The everyday tenses

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Look! The baby _____ (smile) at you.
2. My grandma _____ (drink) green tea every morning.
3. We _____ (visit) Ocean Park last Sunday.
4. Listen! Someone _____ (knock) at the door.
5. Lucy _____ (not like) spicy food.
6. My brother _____ (play) basketball every Saturday.
7. Shh! The students _____ (take) a test at the moment.
8. The phone is ringing. "I _____ (answer) it!" said Paul.

PART B Choose the correct form

Tick (✓) the correct answer.

1. When I phoned Amy last night, she (☐ was cooking ☐ is cooking) dinner.
2. We (☐ are living ☐ have lived) in this flat since I was five.
3. By the time we got to the cinema, the film (☐ has started ☐ had started).
4. Have you ever (☐ saw ☐ seen) a snake?
5. It (☐ is raining ☐ was raining) when we left school yesterday.
6. Ben was hungry because he (☐ has not eaten ☐ had not eaten) all day.

PART C The harder tenses

Fill in each blank. Use the tense given for each pair.

Present perfect continuous

1. Kate _____ (wait) for the bus since half past seven.
2. Why are your hands so dirty? _____ (you garden)?

Future continuous

3. This time tomorrow, we _____ (fly) to London.
4. Don't call me at eight. I _____ (have) dinner then.

Future perfect

5. By Friday, Paul _____ (finish) his science project.
6. By the time you arrive, the film _____ (start).

PART D A diary

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

Dear Diary

Yesterday 1 _____ (be) a strange day. I usually 2 _____ (walk) to school, but in the morning it 3 _____ (rain) heavily, so Dad drove me. When we 4 _____ (arrive), the gate was locked! Nobody 5 _____ (tell) us that the typhoon signal had gone up early that morning.

Right now, I 6 _____ (sit) on my bed and my brother 7 _____ (play) video games. I 8 _____ (never see) our street so quiet! Mum says the rain 9 _____ (stop) tomorrow.

Answers **A** 1 is smiling · 2 drinks · 3 visited · 4 is knocking · 5 does not like / doesn't like · 6 plays · 7 are taking · 8 will answer **B** 1 was cooking · 2 have lived · 3 had started · 4 seen · 5 was raining · 6 had not eaten **C** 1 has been waiting · 2 Have you been gardening · 3 will be flying · 4 will be having · 5 will have finished · 6 will have started **D** 1 was · 2 walk · 3 was raining / rained · 4 arrived · 5 had told / told · 6 am sitting · 7 is playing · 8 have never seen · 9 will stop / is going to stop

Short forms (doesn't, we'll) are also correct.

Want more practice? Ten tense booklets, one tense each, with short notes, school-test-style exercises and a full answer key.

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

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