

TENSE REVISION EXERCISES

1. Simple Present / Present Continuous

A Trekking Journal

November 12, 1997

Today (be) the second day of my trek around Mount Annapurna. I am exhausted and my legs (shake) ; I just hope I am able to complete the trek. My feet (kill, really) me and my toes (bleed) , but I (want, still) to continue.

Nepal is a fascinating country, but I have a great deal to learn. Everything (be) so different, and I (try) to adapt to the new way of life here. I (learn) a little bit of the language to make communication easier; unfortunately, I (learn, not) foreign languages quickly. Although I (understand, not) much yet, I believe that I (improve, gradually) .

I (travel, currently) with Liam, a student from Leeds University in England. He (be) a nice guy, but impatient. He (walk, always) ahead of me and (complain) that I am too slow. I (do) my best to keep up with him, but he is younger and stronger than I am. Maybe, I am just feeling sorry for myself because I am getting old.

Right now, Liam (sit) with the owner of the inn. They (discuss) the differences between life in England and life in Nepal. I (know, not) the real name of the owner, but everybody (call, just) him Tam. Tam (speak) English very well and he (try) to teach Liam some words in Nepali. Every time Tam (say) a new word, Liam (try) to repeat it. Unfortunately, Liam (seem, also) to have difficulty learning foreign languages. I just hope we don't get lost and have to ask for directions.

2. Simple Past / Past Continuous

Last night, while I was doing my homework, Angela (call) . She said she (call) me on her cell phone from her biology classroom at UCLA. I asked her if she (wait) for class, but she said that the professor was at the front of the hall lecturing while she (talk) to me. I couldn't believe she (make) a phone call during the lecture. I asked what was going on.

She said her biology professor was so boring that several of the students (sleep, actually) in class. Some of the students (talk) about their plans for the weekend and the student next to her (draw) a picture of a horse. When Angela (tell) me she was not satisfied with the class, I (mention) that my biology professor was quite good and (suggest) that she switch to my class.

While we were talking, I (hear) her professor yell, "Miss, are you making a phone call?" Suddenly, the line went dead. I (hang) up the phone and went to the kitchen to make dinner. As I (cut) vegetables for a salad, the phone rang once again. It (be) Angela, but this time she wasn't sitting in class.

3. Simple Past / Present Perfect

Since computers were first introduced to the public in the early 1980's, technology (change) a great deal. The first computers (be) simple machines designed for basic tasks. They (have, not) much memory and they (be, not) very powerful. Early computers were often quite expensive and customers often (pay) thousands of dollars for machines which actually (do) very little. Most computers (be) separate, individual machines used mostly as expensive typewriters or for playing games.

Times (change) . Computers (become) powerful machines with very practical applications. Programmers (create) a large selection of useful programs which do everything from teaching foreign languages to bookkeeping. We are still playing video games, but today's games (become) faster, more exciting interactive adventures. Many

computer users (get, also) on the Internet and (begin) communicating with other computer users around the world. We (start) to create international communities online. In short, the simple, individual machines of the past (evolve) into an international World Wide Web of knowledge.

4. Present Perfect / Present Perfect Continuous

1. A: How long (be) in Canada?
B: I (study) here for more than three years.
2. I (have) the same car for more than ten years. I'm thinking about buying a new one.
3. I (love) chocolate since I was a child. You might even call me a "chocoholic".
4. Matt and Sarah (have) some difficulties in their relationship lately, so they (go) to a marriage counselor. I hope they work everything out.
5. John (work) for the government since he graduated from Harvard University. Until recently, he (enjoy) his work, but now he is talking about retiring.
6. Lately, I (think) about changing my career because I (become) dissatisfied with the conditions at my company.
7. I (see) Judy for more than five years and during that time I have (see) many changes in her personality.

5. Simple Past / Present Perfect / Past Perfect

1. When I (arrive) home last night, I discovered that Jane (prepare) a beautiful candle-lit dinner.
2. Since I began acting, I (perform) in two plays, a television commercial and a TV drama. However, I (speak, never even) publicly before I came to Hollywood in 1985.
3. By the time I got to the office, the meeting (begin, already) without me. My boss (be) furious with me and I (be) fired.
4. When I (turn) the radio on yesterday, I (hear) a song that was popular when I was in high school. I (hear, not) the song in years, and it (bring) back some great memories.
5. Last week, I (run) into an ex-girlfriend of mine. We (see, not) each other in years, and both of us (change) a great deal. I (enjoy) talking to her so much that I (ask) her out on a date. We are getting together tonight for dinner.
6. When Jack (enter) the room, I (recognize, not) him because he (lose) so much weight and (grow) a beard. He looked totally different!
7. The Maya established a very advanced civilization in the jungles of the Yucatan; however, their culture (disappear, virtually) by the time Europeans first (arrive) in the New World.
8. I (visit) so many beautiful places since I (come) to Utah. Before moving here, I (hear, never) of Bryce Canyon, Zion, Arches or Canyonlands.

6. Present Perfect Continuous / Past Perfect Continuous

1. It is already 9:30 pm and I (wait) here for over an hour. If John does not get here in the next five minutes, I am going to leave.
2. I was really angry at John yesterday. By the time he finally arrived, I (wait) for over an hour. I almost left without him.
3. Did you hear that Ben was fired last month? He (work) for that import company for more than ten years and he (work) in almost every department. Nobody knew the company like he did.
4. I (see) many pictures of the pyramids before I went to Egypt. Pictures of the monuments are very misleading. The pyramids are actually quite small.
5. Sarah (climb) the Matterhorn, (sail) around the world, and (go) on safari in Kenya. She is such an adventurous person.

6. Sarah (climb) the Matterhorn, (sail) around the world and (go) on safari in Kenya by the time she turned twenty-five. She (experience) more by that age than most people do in their entire lives.

7. When Melanie came into the office yesterday, her eyes were red and watery. I think she (cry) .

7. Will / Be Going to

1.

Michael: Do you think the Republicans or the Democrats (win) the next election?

Jane: I think the Republicans (win) the next election.

John: No way! The Democrats (win) .

2.

Susan: We (go) camping this weekend. Would you like to come along?

Sam: That sounds great, but I don't have a sleeping bag.

Susan: No problem. I (lend) you one. My family has tons of camping gear.

3.

Barbara: I (buy) a new car this weekend, but I'm a little worried because I don't really know much about cars. I'm afraid the salesman (try) to take advantage of me when he sees how little I know.

Dave: I used to work for a mechanic in high school and I know a lot about cars. I (go) with you to make sure you are not cheated.

4.

Gina: Fred and I (visit) Santa Fe next summer. Have you ever been there?

Margaret: My family lives in Santa Fe! I (give) you my parents' phone number. When you get to Santa Fe, just call them and they (give) you a little tour of the town. They can show you some of the sights that most tourists never see.

5.

Pam: Can you see my future in the crystal ball? What (happen) next year?

Fortune Teller: You (meet) a man from the East Coast, perhaps New York or maybe Boston. You (marry) that mystery man.

Pam: Forget the man! I want to know if I (get) a new job.

8. Simple Future / Future Continuous

1.

Sandra: Where is Tim going to meet us?

Marcus: He (wait) for us when our train arrives. I am sure he (stand) on the platform when we pull into the station.

Sandra: And then what?

Marcus: We (pick) Michele up at work and go out to dinner.

2.

Ted: When we get to the party, Jerry (watch) TV, Sam (make) drinks, Beth (dance) by herself, and Thad (complain) about his day at work.

Robin: Maybe, this time they won't be doing the same things.

Ted: I am absolutely positive they (do) the same things; they always do the same things.

3.

Florence: Oh, look at that mountain of dirty dishes! Who (wash) all of those?

Jack: I promise I (do) them when I get home from work.

Florence: Thanks.

Jack: When you get home this evening, that mountain will be gone and nice stacks of sparkling clean dishes (sit) in the cabinets.

4.

Doug: If you need to contact me next week, I (stay) at the Hoffman Hotel.

Nancy: I (call) you if there are any problems.

Doug: This is the first time I have ever been away from the kids.

Nancy: Don't worry, they (be) fine.

5.

Samantha: Just think, next week at this time, I (lie) on a tropical beach in Maui drinking Mai Tai's and eating pineapple.

Darren: While you are luxuriating on the beach, I (stress) out over this marketing project. How are you going to enjoy yourself knowing that I am working so hard.

Samantha: I 'll manage somehow.

Darren: You're terrible. Can't you take me with you?

Samantha: No. But I (send) you a postcard of a beautiful, white-sand beach.

Darren: Great, that (make) me feel much better.

9. Simple Present / Simple Future/ Present Continuous / Future Continuous

1. Right now I am watching T.V. Tomorrow at this time, I (watch) T.V. as well.

2. Tomorrow after school, I (go) to the beach.

3. I am going on a dream vacation to Tahiti. While you (do) paperwork and (talk) to annoying customers on the phone, I (lie) on a sunny, tropical beach. Are you jealous?

4. We (hiding) when Tony (arrives) at his surprise party. As soon as he opens the door, we (jump) out and (scream) , "Surprise!"

5. We work out at the fitness center everyday after work. If you (come) over while we (work) out, we will not be able to let you into the house. Just to be safe, we (leave) a key under the welcome mat so you will not have to wait outside.

6. While you (study) at home, Magda (be) in class.

7. When I (get) to the party, Sally and Doug (dance) , John (make) drinks, Sue and Frank (discuss) something controversial, and Mary (complain) about something unimportant. They are always doing the same things. They are so predictable.

8. When you (get) off the plane, I (wait) for you.

9. I am sick of rain and bad weather! Hopefully, when we (wake) up tomorrow morning, the sun (shine) .

10. If you (need) to contact me sometime next week, I (stay) at the Sheraton in San Francisco.

Cumulative Verb Tense Review (1)

1. You look really great! (You, exercise) at the fitness center?
2. A: What (you, do) when the accident occurred?
B: I (try) to change a light bulb that had burnt out.
3. I (have) the same car for more than ten years. I'm thinking about buying a new one.
4. If it (snow) this weekend, we (go) skiing near Lake Tahoe.
5. A: What do you call people who work in libraries?
B: They (call) librarians.
6. I came to England six months ago. I started my economics course three months ago. When I return to Australia, I (study) for nine months and I (be) in England for exactly one year.
7. Sam (arrive) in San Diego a week ago.
8. Samantha (live) in Berlin for more than two years. In fact, she (live) there when the Berlin wall came down.
9. If Vera (keep) drinking, she (lose, eventually) her job.
10. The Maya established a very advanced civilization in the jungles of the Yucatan; however, their culture (disappear, virtually) by the time Europeans first (arrive) in the New World.
11. Shhhhh! Be quiet! John (sleep) .
12. It (rain) all week. I hope it stops by Saturday because I want to go to the beach.
13. Listen Donna, I don't care if you (miss) the bus this morning. You (be) late to work too many times. You are fired!
14. I am sick of rain and bad weather! Hopefully, when we (wake) up tomorrow morning, the sun (shine) .
15. I have not traveled much yet; however, I (visit) the Grand Canyon and San Francisco by the time I leave the United States.
16. I (see) many pictures of the pyramids before I went to Egypt. Pictures of the monuments are very misleading. The pyramids are actually quite small.
17. In the last hundred years, traveling (become) much easier and very comfortable. In the 19th century, it (take) two or three months to cross North America by covered wagon. The trip (be) very rough and often dangerous. Things (change) a great deal in the last hundred and fifty years. Now you can fly from New York to Los Angeles in a matter of hours.
18. Joseph's English (improve, really) , isn't it? He (watch) American television programs and (study) his grammar every day since he first arrived in San Diego. Soon he will be totally fluent.
19. When I (arrive) home last night, I discovered that Jane (prepare) a beautiful candle-lit dinner.
20. If you (need) to contact me sometime next week, I (stay) at the Sheraton in San Francisco.

Cumulative Verb Tense Review (2)

1. When Carol (call) last night, I (watch) my favorite show on television.
2. I (work) for this company for more than thirty years, and I intend to stay here until I retire!
3. Sharon (love) to travel. She (go) abroad almost every summer. Next year, she plans to go to Peru.
4. Thomas is an author. He (write) mystery novels and travel memoirs. He (write) since he was twenty-eight. Altogether, he (write) seven novels, three collections of short stories and a book of poetry.
5. We were late because we had some car problems. By the time we (get) to the train station, Susan (wait) for us for more than two hours.
6. Sam (try) to change a light bulb when he (slip) and (fell) .
7. Everyday I (wake) up at 6 o'clock, (eat) breakfast at 7 o'clock and (leave) for work at 8 o'clock. However, this morning I (get) up at 6:30, (skip) breakfast and (leave) for work late because I (forget) to set my alarm.
8. Right now, Jim (read) the newspaper and Kathy (make) dinner. Last night at this time, they (do) the same thing. She (cook) and he (read) the newspaper. Tomorrow at this time, they (do, also) the same thing. She (prepare) dinner and he (read) . They are very predictable people!
9. By this time next summer, you (complete) your studies and (find) a job. I, on the other hand, (accomplish, not) anything. I (study, still) and you (work) in some new high paying job.
10. The students (be, usually) taught by Mrs. Monty. However, this week they (be) taught by Mr. Tanzer.

11.

Jane talks on the phone.
Bob has been talking on the phone for an hour.
Mary is talking on the phone.

Who is not necessarily on the phone now? _____

12.

I'm going to make dinner for Frank.
I'm making dinner for Judy.
I'll make dinner for Mary.
I make dinner for Ted.
I will be making dinner for Tony.

Who are you offering to make dinner for? _____

13.

Jane left when Tim arrived.
Bob left when Tim had arrived.
Tim arrived when Mary was leaving.
John had left when Tim arrived.
After Tim arrived, Frank left.

Who did not run into Tim? _____

14.

Jane is talking in class.

Bob always talks in class.

Mary is always talking in class.

Whose action bothers you? _____

15.

Jane never left Jamestown.

Bob has never left Jamestown.

Who is still alive? _____