

## EXERCISES ON VERB TENSES

Complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets in the appropriate form and tense

### Simple Present or Present Continuous

- 1 How many languages ..... (you/speak)?
- 2 She already ..... (speak) Spanish fluently and now she ..... (learn) Portuguese.
- 3 Natural sciences ..... (include) physical sciences such as chemistry and physics.
- 4 He ..... (prefer) life sciences so this year he ..... (specialise) in biology.
- 5 What courses ..... (you/take) this year? Anything interesting?
- 6 I generally ..... (have) lunch at the university but I ..... (not/eat) there today because I haven't got the time.
- 7 How ..... (he/come) to the university? Usually he ..... (take) the bus.

### Simple Past or Past Continuous

- 8 Peter ..... (start) working for IBM ten years ago, when he ..... (leave) university.
- 9 He ..... (injure) his knee badly when he ..... (play) soccer yesterday.
- 10 He ..... (catch) an infection while he ..... (recover) from surgery.
- 11 How fast ..... (you/drive) when the accident ..... (happen)?
- 12 I ..... (not/understand) a word she ..... (say).
- 13 Paul ..... (meet) Janet when he ..... (be) an exchange student in Edinburgh in 2005. They ..... (get married) the following year.
- 14 How much money ..... (you/make) during the last summer holidays? - Quite a bit, actually. I ..... (have) a great job in a luxury hotel.

### Simple Present, Simple Past, Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous

- 15 Marion ..... (be) a student here for five years, but she ..... (not/get) her BSc degree yet.
- 16 ..... (he/live) in Marseille all his life? - No, he ..... (use) to live in Lyon. He ..... (come) here when he ..... (be) 12.
- 17 Paul and Janet ..... (be married) since 1986. They've got 3 children.
- 18 She ..... (buy) lottery tickets for years but she ..... (never/win) a penny so far.
- 19 Yes, they ..... (be) to Los Angeles. They ..... (go) there in the summer of 2000.
- 20 Where ..... (you/be born)? - I ..... (be born) in India.
- 21 When ..... (she/move) to the USA? - I think it was when she was 20 and she ..... (live) there ever since.

### Simple Past, Past Perfect Simple or Past Perfect Continuous

- 22 When they ..... (arrive) at the cinema, the film .....  
(already/begin).
- 23 We ..... (not/want) anything to eat because we .....  
(just/have) dinner.
- 24 How long ..... (he/smoke) when he finally .....  
(decide) to quit.
- 25 He ..... (be) extremely nervous because he .....  
(never/attempt) a bungee jump before.
- 26 When Armstrong ..... (make) his memorable step, it was the first time  
man ..... (set) foot on the moon.

### Expressions on the Future

- 27 If these birds are not protected now, they ..... (become) extinct.
- 28 When ..... (you/know) whether or not you've passed the exam?
- 29 He'll phone as soon as the meeting ..... (be) over.
- 30 Dad, ..... (you/use) the car Saturday night? – No, you can take it if you  
want.
- 31 She ..... (leave) for New York on the first flight Monday morning.
- 32 The ferry for Morocco ..... (leave) from Sète tomorrow at 2 o'clock.
- 33 - I don't have enough money for the restaurant! – Don't worry, I ..... (lend) you  
some.
- 34 By the time the mission is over, the astronauts ..... (be) in space for 6  
months.

### Use the appropriate tense

- 35 The abandoned satellite is losing altitude. If nothing is done, it is expected that it  
..... (enter) the atmosphere some time in the autumn.
- 36 So far this year, three attempts ..... (be made) to reach the summit of  
Kinchinjanga, the third highest peak in the Himalayas.
- 37 For centuries, it ..... (be believed) that the earth was flat.
- 38 The number of algae ..... (increase) rapidly, due to high nitrate levels.
- 39 Between 2001 and 2002, the number of accidents caused by small aircraft  
..... (rise) by 10%.
- 40 Once the new law ..... (come) into effect, the exportation of toxic waste  
will not be allowed.