English Verb Tenses – Practice

For questions 1-30, fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given in brackets

1. You look really great! _____ (you, exercise) at the fitness centre?

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 travelled 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, travelling _____ (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 three 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.

21. When Carol _____ (call) last night, I _____ (watch) my favourite show on television.

22. I _____ (work) for this company for more than thirty years, and I intend to stay here until I retire!

23. Sharon _____ (love) travelling. She _____ (go) abroad almost every summer. Next year, she plans to go to Peru.

24. 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.

25. 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.

26. Sam _____ (try) to change a light bulb when he _____ (slip) and _____ (fall) .

27. Every day 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.

28. 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!

29. 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.

30. The students _____(be, usually) taught by Mrs. Monty. However, this week they _____(be) taught by Mr. Tanzer.

For questions 31-35, read the information given and put the correct names in the blanks

31.
Jane regularly talks on the phone.
Bob has been talking on the phone for an hour.
Mary is talking on the phone.

Who is <u>not necessarily</u> on the phone now? _____

32.
I'm making dinner for Judy.
I'll make dinner for Mary.
I make dinner for Ted every day.
I'm going to make dinner for Frank.
I will be making dinner for Tony.

Who are you <u>planning</u> to make dinner for? _____

33.
Jane left when Tim arrived.
Bob left after Tim had arrived.
Tim arrived when Mary was leaving.
John had left when Tim arrived.
After Tim arrived, Frank left.

Who did not see Tim? _____

34.
Jane is talking in class.
Bob always talks in class.
Mary is always talking in class.

Whose action irritates you? _____

35.
Jane never went to Paris.
Tim never goes to Paris.
John had never been to Paris until last year.
Bob has never been to Paris.

a. **Who could be in Paris now?** _____

b. **Who is dead?** _____

Verb Tense Practice Test

Answers:

1. Have you been exercising
2A. were you doing
2B. was trying
3. have had
4. snows
5B. are going to go / are going
6. will have been studying, will have been
7. arrived
8. lived, was living
9. keeps, will eventually lose
10. had virtually disappeared, arrived
11. is sleeping
12. has been raining
13. missed, have been
14. wake, will be shining
15. will have visited
16. had seen
17. has become, took, was, have changed
18. is really improving, has been watching, studying
19. arrived, had prepared
20. need, will be staying
21. called, was watching
22. have been working
23. loves, goes
24. writes, has been writing, has written
25. got, had been waiting
26. was trying, slipped, fell
27. wake, eat, leave, got, skipped, left, had forgotten
28. is reading, is making, were doing, was cooking, was reading, will also be doing, will be preparing, will be reading
29. will have completed, found, will not have accomplished, will still be studying, will be working
30. are usually, are being

31. Jane
32. Mary
33. John
34. Mary
35. a. John b. Jane