PRESENT (& MORE) TENSES – OVERVIEW

I. Name the highlighted tenses in the following four sentences:

1. She **spends** two hours every morning putting on her make-up.
2. I can't talk for long because I **am having** dinner with my family.
3. We **have travelled** to most parts of Europe, but never to any other continent.
4. They **have been sitting** there in silence for over an hour.

II. Complete the sentences in the following chart with the verbs suggested:

	Positive Statements	Negative Statements	Questions
Present Simple	I _____ tennis every Saturday. (**play**) He _____ every other morning. (**jog**)	I _____ tripe (**eat**) She _____ a car. (**drive**)	_____ reality shows? (you / **watch**) _____ jewelry? (she / **wear**)
Present Continuous	I _____ to you! (**talk**) My wife _____ a nap. (**take**) The neighbors _____ a barbecue. (**have**)	He _____his job well. (**do**)	Where _____? (you / **go**)
Present Perfect Simple	I _____ most European capitals. (**visit**) She _____ the Northern Lights. (**see**)	They _____ their rent. (**pay**) He _____ me anything. (**tell**)	_____ *Hostel*? (you / **see**) _____ the report? (she / **write**)
Present Perfect Continuous	I _____ about you. (**think**) She _____ for you. (**look**)	I _____ much lately. (**work**) _____ the news? (you / **not / watch**)	_____ long? (you / **wait**) How long _____ there? (he / **stand**)

Which of the above tense or tenses:

- **may be accompanied by adverbs of frequency such as *never*, *often*, *rarely*/*seldom*, *usually*, *always*, *sometimes*/*occasionally*?**
- **may go together with time phrases such as *yet*, *just*, *ever*, *already*, *for…*, *since…*?**
- **may be used with a future reference?**
- **may mean the action is still ongoing?**
- **may emphasize action taking place over a period of time?**
- **may indicate the action was actually completed in the past?**

III. Special cases: Does the verb in each set of sentences mean the same?

1. I **see** two cars in the street, but no motorbike. Are you sure you left it there?
   I **see** your point, but I still can't fully agree with you.
   I really think you're heading for trouble if **you're seeing** your ex again.
   No, I don't believe in ghosts – so I think you **are seeing** things that are not there.

2. I **hear** you – loud and clear – so you can stop shouting.
   I **hear** you're getting married soon – when's the happy day?
   Doctor, I'**ve been hearing all** kinds of strange voices lately, and they drive me mad.

3. I **think** love is the most selfish feeling of all.
   You seem to be somewhere far, far away – what **are you thinking** about?
   I **have been thinking** of changing my dentist – any suggestions?

4. What does the word 'egregious' **mean**?
   What? I'm an 'ignorant, self-important prick'? Do you really **mean** that?
   I **don't mean** to be rude, but you have been behaving atrociously.
   I'**ve been meaning** to talk to you about this, but you're never around.

5. This lasagna **smells** delicious – what's the secret ingredient?
   You'**ve been smelling** the lasagna for the last five minutes – is there anything wrong?

6. This fish **tastes** off – I am not going to eat it!
   My husband **is tasting** the barman's martinis – he's such a control freak!

IV. What's the difference (if any) between the sentences in each set?

1. I **live** with my parents because I can't afford a place of my own.
   I **am living** with my parents while the plumbing at my place gets fixed.

2. I **have read** your essay. There are too many mistakes in it.
   I **have been reading** your essay. There are too many mistakes in it.

3. You **are** really cruel – what on earth made me think we could be friends?
   You **are being** really cruel – what on earth is going on with you?

4. I **am painting the room** and I can't come to the phone right now.
   I **am painting the room** today, so I need to go and buy paint and a roller.

5. I **have been painting the room** all day and I still have one wall left.
   I **have been painting the room** all day and I am exhausted – but it looks lovely now.
   I **have painted the room** and I'm really proud of the result.
   I **painted the room** before moving on to the kitchen.

6. My wife and I **have been separated** for about two years now.
   My wife and I **separated** about two years ago.

7. They **have lived** in London, Paris, and Barcelona.
   They **have lived** in Rome for two years.
   They **have been living** in Rome for two years.
   They **lived** in Berlin for a year.

8. She **has gone** to the USA.
   She **has been** to the USA.
   She **has been** in the USA for over a year.

9. I **have been calling** the office.
   I **have been called** to the office.

10. How much **do you charge** per lesson?
    How much **are you charged** per lesson?

V. Complete the third column with the correct passive forms.

Remember that the passive in English is formed with the help of the auxiliary verb be and the past participle of the full verb. As the past participle cannot change in form, you have to operate with the form of be to produce the different tenses.

	Active	Passive
Present Simple	They **make** real champagne only in Champagne, France.	Real champagne _____ only in Champagne, France.
Present Continuous	This street is closed today – they **are shooting** a here film.	This street is closed today – a film _____ here today.
Present Perfect Simple	They **have arrested** the serial rapist at last.	The serial rapist _____ at last.
Present Perfect Continuous	They **have been building** that road for two years now.	**X**

VI. Complete these sentences with the correct form of be, do or have.

1. Hi! It's _____ such a long time! What _____ you _____doing?
2. I _____ peeled and chopped the onions – what _____ I do next?
3. Why _____ you crying? _____ you _____ chopping onions?
4. _____ John _____ told about the meeting this afternoon?
5. This room _____ usually used for office parties, but today it _____ _____ used as a conference room.
6. _____ you heard? The Prime Minister _____ _____ shot!
7. Great news! The police _____ found the kidnapped baby!
8. Great news! The stolen baby _____ _____ found!
9. Who _____ eaten the last slice of pizza?
10. 350 slices of pizza _____ eaten in the USA per second.

VII. Choose the correct option in **bold**:

1. I **have smoked** / **have been smoking** 17 cigarettes this morning.
2. Don't enter that room – a student **is** / **is being** examined.
3. Tom Cruise **made** / **has made** a lot of stupid movies.
4. Some of the best Bulgarian wine **is made** / **is making** in Melnik.
5. Soft drugs **are tolerated** / **have been tolerated** in Holland since the late 20th century.
6. She **was** / **has been** in Florence in 2016.
7. The secretary **has sent** / **has been sent** invitations to all delegation members.
8. The secretary **has sent** / **has been sent** to collect the delegation from the airport.
9. Come and look at this weird email that I **have received** / **have been receiving**!
10. Shakespeare **has written** / **wrote** over 30 plays.
11. What **do you do** / **are you doing** at weekends?
12. What **do you do** / **are you doing** this weekend?
13. I **am** / **have been** in town two more days – want to meet up?

VIII. Some of the following sentences are grammatically correct, others are not. Correct the ones you think are wrong.

1. He's speaking English, French and German fluently.

2. My hands are dirty because I've been working in the garden.

3. The Mona Lisa is painted by Leonardo da Vinci.

4. He has travelling all over Europe lately.

5. I have this car for over 10 years now.

6. I am loving you truly, madly, deeply!

7. Who's been sleeping in my bed?

8. This government is considering to be the worst yet!

9. I have invited to my ex-wife's wedding, can you imagine?

10. My dress is personally made by one of the best-known designers in Paris.