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Quiz topic: Present tenses

1. A: "Can you help me?" B: "Sorry, not right now, I _____"
a) work
b) 'm working
c) 've worked
d) 've been working
2. A: "How do you get to work?" B: "I _____ the train and then walk."
a) take
b) 'm taking
c) 've taken
d) 've been taking
3. Which is the best answer? "I'm so tired, I _____ for my exams all day"
a) study
b) 'm studying
c) 've studied
d) 've been studying
4. How many times _____ you? Turn that music down!
a) do I tell
b) am I telling
c) have I told
d) have I been telling
5. How long _____ each other? We met when we were about 8 years old.
a) do we know
b) are we knowing
c) have we known
d) have we been knowing
6. What time _____? I don't want to be late.
a) will the film starting
b) is the film starting
c) has the film started
d) has the film been starting

Quiz topic: Present tenses

1. A: "Can you help me?" B: "Sorry, not right now, I _____"

- a) work
- b) 'm working**
- c) 've worked
- d) 've been working

a) We use the present simple tense to talk about facts and habits.

b) If you are doing something (or something is happening) at this moment, use the present continuous tense (am + verb + ing) to describe the action.

c) Use the present perfect to describe a situation which started in the past but continues to the present, e.g. 'I've lived in Edinburgh since 1995.'

d) Use the present perfect continuous to describe a continuous activity which started in the past and continues to the present, or which has a clear result in the present e.g. 'My legs ache because I've been running at the gym.'

2. A: "How do you get to work?" B: "I _____ the train and then walk."

- a) take**
- b) 'm taking
- c) 've taken
- d) 've been taking

a) We use the present simple tense to talk about facts and habits.

b) We don't use the present continuous tense for describing everyday habits.

c) Use the present perfect to describe a situation which started in the past but continues to the present, e.g. 'I've lived in Edinburgh since 1995.'

d) Use the present perfect continuous to describe a continuous activity which started in the past and continues to the present, or which has a clear result in the present e.g. 'My legs ache because I've been running at the gym.'

3. Which is the best answer? "I'm so tired, I _____ for my exams all day"

- a) study
- b) 'm studying
- c) 've studied
- d) 've been studying**

a) We use the present simple tense to talk about facts and habits.

b) If you are doing something (or something is happening) at this moment, use the present continuous tense (am + verb + ing) to describe the action.

c) Use the present perfect to describe a situation which started in the past but continues to the present, e.g. 'I've lived in Edinburgh since 1995.'

d) Use the present perfect continuous to describe a continuous activity in the past which has a result you can see in the present – 'I'm tired because I've been working'.

4. How many times _____ you? Turn that music down!

- a) do I tell
- b) am I telling
- c) have I told**
- d) have I been telling

a) We use the present simple tense to talk about facts and habits.

b) If you are doing something (or something is happening) at this moment, use the present continuous tense (am + verb + ing) to describe the action.

c) If we talk about 'How many times...?' and the action is not finished (I'm telling you now), it is usually followed by the present perfect e.g. 'How many times have you missed class?'

d) Use the present perfect continuous to describe a continuous activity which started in the past and continues to the present, or which has a clear result in the present e.g. 'My legs ache because I've been running at the gym.'

5. How long _____ each other? We met when we were about 8 years old.

- a) do we know
- b) are we knowing
- c) have we known**
- d) have we been knowing

a) We use the present simple tense to talk about facts and habits.

b) If you are doing something (or something is happening) at this moment, use the present continuous tense (am + verb + ing) to describe the action.

c) State verbs like 'know' always appear in the simple form with 'How long...' questions.

d) State verbs like 'know' always appear in the simple form with 'How long...' questions.

6. What time _____? I don't want to be late.

- a) will the film starting
- b) is the film starting**
- c) has the film started
- d) has the film been starting

a) You can say '...will the film be starting' or '...will the film start' but not '...will the film starting'.

b) The present continuous can sometimes be used to talk about future arrangements.

c) Use the present perfect to describe a situation which started in the past but continues to the present, e.g. 'I've lived in Edinburgh since 1995.'

d) Use the present perfect continuous to describe a continuous activity which started in the past and continues to the present, or which has a clear result in the present e.g. 'My legs ache because I've been running at the gym.'