

2. Explain (in English) the difference in grammar, use and meaning in the italicized phrases in the sentence pairs below.

1. a) Someone *has telephoned* you.
b) Someone *has been telephoning* you.

a) present perfect simple: indefinite past = someone tried to call you at least once between the time you left and now / resultative past = there is a message for you on the answering machine

b) present perfect progressive: incompleteness = someone keeps trying to phone you and will try again

2. a) He *made* a long speech when I asked a question.
b) He *was making* a long speech when I asked a question.

a) past simple: normal use of reference to the past / unitary past = an event in the past seen as a whole; it was triggered by my asking a question

b) past progressive, in progress = longer action was in progress at a given point of time, i.e., the time when I asked a question

3. a) I haven't seen him since I've *been* ill.
b) I haven't seen him since I *was* ill.

a) present perfect simple: state up to the present = I fell ill and I am still ill

b) normal use of reference in the past; state verb of being in the past = past state / I'm not ill anymore

4. a) What *do you think*?
b) What *are you thinking about*?

a) present simple; state use / state verb of inert cognition = asking about somebody's cognitive opinion, no clear beginning or end of what you think, opinions are – once formed – stable states of affairs)

b) present progressive / action in progress = *think about* is an activity verb, somebody is actively and deliberately performing an action, i.e., the act of thinking about something

5. a) He *is coming* to see us next week.
b) He *is always coming* to see us next week.

a) present progressive with futurate meaning for personal arrangements = he has arranged with us to come and see us

b) present progressive with adverb of frequency = criticism of annoying repeated action/habit; here, most likely: he always promises to come but never does

6. a) How long *are you staying* here?
b) How long *have you been staying* here.

a) present progressive; in progress and temporary = somebody is visiting and the speaker asks for the limited period of this person's stay

b) present perfect progressive; incompleteness and limited duration = emphasis on period of stay, meaning *when did you arrive*

N.B. this is **NOT** a state-up-to-the-present; ing-forms can never ever be states; a state-up-to-the-present would be: *how long have you been here* (SIMPLE FORM !!!)

7. a) I've *been writing* since ten o'clock.
b) I've *written* five letters since ten o'clock.

a) present perfect progressive; incompleteness = I am still writing or have just finished this very moment
b) present perfect simple; resultative past = process of writing has been finished and the result is lying on the table: 5 completed letters

8. a) He assured me he always *wrote* to his mother.
b) He assured me he *would always write* to his mother.

a) reported speech of present habitual use, direct speech *I always write to Mum*. backshift because of reporting verb *assured* in the past
b) reported speech of promise (intermediate volition), direct speech *I will always write to Mum*. backshift because of reporting verb *assured* in the past

9. a) The cook *is tasting* the soup.
b) I *taste* salt in the soup.

a) present progressive / action in progress = *taste* here is an activity verb, somebody is actively and deliberately performing an action, i.e., the act of testing the soup
b) present simple; state use / state verb of inert perception = no personal influence on how the soup tastes; if I taste salt in the soup, this is a stable state beyond my influence

10. Tom: 'There aren't any matches in the house.'
Ann: a) 'I'm *going to* get some today.'
b) 'I'll *get* some today.'

a) going to-future; future outcome of present intention, decision made before moment of speaking = the person already knew this and decided to get some at an earlier stage
b) modal verb *will* to express a spontaneous decision (weak volition); = person did not know this and decides at the moment of speaking

11. a) They **must have handed in** the test.
b) They **will have handed in** the test by now.
c) They **will be handing in** the test any minute.
d) They **can't have handed in** the test yet.
e) I **needn't have handed in** the test so early.
f) They **should be handing in** the test any minute.
g) No, you **can't leave** class after handing in the test. You **will have to wait** until everybody else is finished, too.

a) modal verb *must* with perfect infinitive; logical necessity = there is no other conclusion possible than that they have already handed in the tests, perfect infinitive here resultative → they do not have any tests anymore
b) modal verb *will* with perfect infinitive; neutral prediction = belief / conjecture that that they have already handed in the tests, perfect infinitive here referring to an indefinite past
c) modal verb *will* with present progressive infinitive; neutral prediction = belief / conjecture that that at a definite point of time in the future (*any minute*) this action will be in progress

d) modal verb *can't* with perfect infinitive; possibility = here impossibility: it is not possible that that they have already handed in the tests, perfect infinitive here referring to an indefinite past or perhaps resultative → I don't have the tests so they can't have handed them in

e) modal verb *need* with perfect infinitive; necessity = here absence of necessity: I have already handed in the test (at an indefinite past, also resultative), although there was no necessity for me to do so / I could also have gone on writing

f) modal verb *should* with present progressive infinitive; weakened logical necessity (probability / assumption) = there are good reasons to assume that this action will be in progress at a definite time in future (any minute)

g) modal verb *can't* with present infinitive to express negative permission = you are not allowed to leave / *will have to* with present infinitive: *will* here expresses neutral prediction of external (non-speaker) obligation / requirement *have to*