

TENSES

2

UNIT

A. The concept of tense and time:

In class IX, you studied, in some detail, the uses of verb forms like simple past, past continuous, past perfect, simple present, present perfect and present perfect continuous. You also learnt how to use the verb 'to have' to convey the meaning of 'possession' and the use of 'used to' and 'would' to talk about past habits or routines now given up or discontinued.

In this unit, you will learn more about the use of past and present forms of verbs and their relation with past, present and future time.

Let us begin by studying the relationship between the different verb forms and the time they denote.

A.1 Work individually

Indicate the tense and time of each of the highlighted verbs in the table below. The first has been done as an example.

	Sentence	Tense	Time
1.	We are planning to go out for a picnic tomorrow.	Present	Future
2.	India has made tremendous progress in the past few decades.		
3.	It has been raining since morning.		
4.	Could you please send your e-mail address as soon as possible?		
5.	The train must have reached Delhi by now.		
6.	It always rains in July here.		
7.	Cold wave intensifies further. (A news headline)		
8.	He was playing here a minute ago.		
9.	She won the Student of the Year award last year.		
10.	All incomplete forms will be rejected .		

A.2 Now compare your answers with those of your partner and discuss the following questions and write your observations in the given space.

- a. Is the time referred to in the sentences always the same as the tense of the verb? What conclusion can you draw from your observation? Write your observation below.

- b. How have you found the tense of the verbs in the sentences above? Are there any indicators or markers that reveal the tense of the verb? Write your observation below.

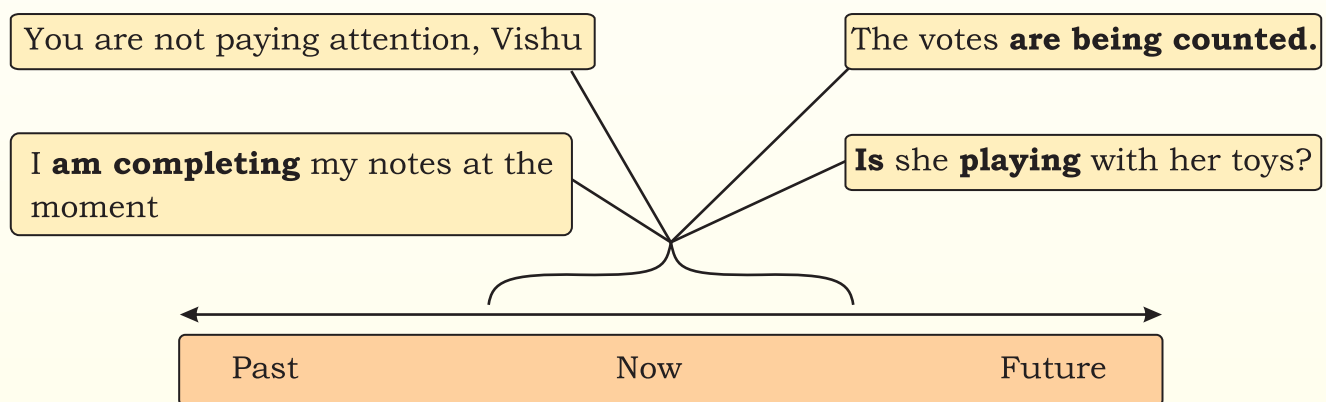
- c. Did you find any verb form that could be called 'future form'? (You will learn more about the different ways of talking about future later in this unit.)

- d. Why do you think verb forms are often labelled as 'simple' or 'indefinite', 'progressive' or 'continuous', 'perfect' and 'perfect continuous'?

B. Present Progressive*

(*Progressive = continuous)

B.1 Form



- **S + is/am/are + verb+ ing**
- **S + is/am/are + not+ verb+ ing.**
- **Is/am/are + S + verb+ing?**
- **S + is/am/are + being + Verb (past participle)**

B.1 Meaning

Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks with the present progressive form of the given verbs.

- "You've put on weight, Cheryl."
"Yes. I.....(eat) a lot these days."
- "Hurry up! We ...(get) late for school."
"Just a second, please! I ...(come)."
- Temperatures... (rise) all over the world.

- iv. "You....not...(wear) this dirty shirt to office. Wait, I'll give you another."
- v. "I...not...(do) your homework-forget it. I still haven't forgotten how you fought with me in the morning."
- vi. The Prime Minister ...(leave) for Russia tomorrow on a 5 day state visit.
- vii. "You ...(be) very rude, Abhi."
- viii. She ...always (make) excuses for coming late.
- ix. Aabha... (write) a novel these days.

The table below shows different uses or meanings of the present progressive. Match the verbs in the above sentences with the uses or meanings they convey.

a.	Something pre-arranged or a fixed plan	_____
b.	Insistence	_____
c.	Annoyance	_____
d.	Repeated action	_____
e.	Some development or change	_____
f.	Emphatic refusal	_____
g.	Something happening 'around now'	_____
h.	An action just starting.	_____
i.	Temporary action not necessarily taking place at the moment of speaking.	_____

*It is a little difficult to match the sentences with uses of present progressive tense. Here are the answers:

a-vi, b-iv, c-vii, d-i, e-iii, f-v, g-ix, h-ii, i-viii.

Compare your answers with these and have a class discussion.

B 2. Verbs that are normally NOT used in the progressive form.

i. Which sentence in each of the following pairs is acceptable and why?

1. a. I am respecting you.
b. I respect you.
2. a. My son loves to draw and paint.
b. My son is loving to draw and paint.
3. a. We are having two cars.
b. We have two cars.
4. a. I am thinking you are new to this place.
b. I think you are new to this place.
5. a. The cake smells good.
b. The cake is smelling good.

Verbs referring to mental states (eg. know, think, believe etc) and to the use of the senses (eg. smell, taste etc) are never, or hardly ever, used in progressive forms. Some of these verbs are:

believe	prefer	know	suppose	feel	sound
(dis)like	love	realise	understand	hear	taste
see	hate	recognise	want	see	belong
doubt	imagine	remember	wish	smell	agree
possess	own	owe	involve	include	depend

ii. Can you explain the difference between?

1. a. I just can't imagine how you got into such a mess.
 b. You're imagining things nothing will happen.
2. a. The coffee tastes bitter
 b. Mother is tasting coffee to check if it is too bitter.
3. a. My teacher admires my art work
 b. She is admiring the latest painting I have made.
4. a. The doctor is feeling the patient's pulse.
 b. The patient is feeling better.

B. 3 Complete the following sentences with the appropriate forms of the given verbs.

1. Every day I(go) to school in a bus but today I (go) by car because the bus operators are on strike.
2. "Baichung Bhutia (pass) the ball to Bannerjee; Bannerjee (take) a shot at the goal but it (be) way above the goal post. The Indians (attack) much more now..."
3. I (think) you (make) a mistake by signing this contract.
4. The doctor (say) mother (respond) to the treatment well.
5. Farzana (be) not well. She (not come) to school today.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

B.4. Study the following picture carefully and then write a paragraph to describe what is happening.



B.5. Here is a letter Nikita wrote to her friend Susie who lives in Milan, Italy. What verb forms has she used in this letter? Has she used a mix of verb forms? Is there any particular form that has been used more frequently?

Dear Susie

It's a beautiful Sunday morning. Rakesh is busy with some office work and the kids are playing in the park outside and I've time enough to write a quick letter to you.

So, how are you doing? How's your new novel coming along? I hear you're learning Bharatnatyam these days. Couldn't believe it when Sharon told me about it. Bharatnatyam in Milan! Never knew there is an Indian Dance school in Italy. Interesting! By the way, who are you taking dance lessons from? I mean, who is your Guru? And why are you learning Bharatnatyam? Must you do everything that I do?

What happened to your plan to visit us this winter? Well, winter is round the corner. When are you coming? How long do you plan to stay? What places would you like to visit? Do let me know, will you? I'll make your itinerary accordingly. Remember, this time when you come, you are not staying at any hotel as you did last time. You will stay with us. I have a room spare for you to stay as long as you wish. OK?

As for the weather, I've already told you, winter is setting in. It's beginning to get cold, especially in the mornings and the evenings. The temperature is falling with each passing day and it's just the right kind of weather for some travel and adventure. Delhi is at its best in the early winter and it is waiting to welcome you with open arms.

And how's your mom's health now? Is she keeping well? Is she getting physiotherapy done regularly? I continue to pray for her speedy recovery.

I think I got to go now. The kids seem to have had a fight. I can hear the younger one crying. These boys are giving me a difficult time!

Catch you later. Bye

Yours

Nikita

B.6. As Susie, write a reply to Nikita's letter. Do take care to answer all the questions Nikita has asked you. What verb forms would you like to use?

Milan

25th October, 2011

Dear Nikita

[illegible]

Yours

Susie

C. Present Perfect

C.1 Form

- Have/has+ past participle
- Have/ has + been + past participle

Work individually

C.2 Meaning

Complete the following sentences by using the present perfect form (as given in C.1) of the given verbs.

- The kids (work) really hard for the show. Now, don't cancel it, please.
- Yippy! I (select) for the interschool dance competition!
- I ...(contest) five elections so far.
- John? O, he is a delightful boy. I (know) him since his childhood.
- ...you ever (be) to the Taj Mahal?

- **The box below shows different uses or meanings of the present perfect. Match the sentences above with the uses or meanings of the present perfect they illustrate.**

- Something that has happened several times up to the present.
- Announcement or news of a recent event.
- Finished event connected with the present.
- An action or situation that has continued up to the present.
- Finished event at some/any time up to now.

Answer: i - c; ii - b; iii - a; iv - d; v - e

C.3 Present Perfect vs. Simple Past

a. Explain the difference in the meaning of the following pairs of sentences. You may like to use the given hints.

1. a. I have been a teacher for five years.

b. I was a teacher for five years.

(Hint: Is the speaker still a teacher?)

2. a. I always got good marks in English.

b. I have always got good marks in English.

(Hint: Is the speaker still studying?)

3. a. Geeta has never met her cousin.

b. Geeta never met her cousin.

(Hint: Is Geeta's cousin alive?)

4. a. I have never been to Timbuktu.

b. I never went to Timbuktu.

(Is the speaker talking about a particular journey or his travels so far?)

5. a. Jose has completed seven assignments today.

b. Jose completed seven assignments today.

(Hint: Is the day over? Has Jose more assignments to write?)

b. What conclusion can you draw from these sentences about the use of present perfect and simple past forms of verbs?

C.4 Look at the incomplete sentences below. Using the information provided, complete each sentence using a suitable tense. Follow the examples:

1947 until now India has been (be) independent since 1947.

1947 India became (become) independent in 1947.

1. 1947 until now There _____ (be) many wars.
2. 1991 There _____ (be) a war in the Persian Gulf.
3. 1953 Edmund Hilary and Tensing first _____ (climb) Everest.
4. 1953 until now Many people _____ (climb) Everest.
5. 1983 India _____ (win) the Prudential Cricket World Cup in England.
6. 1983 until now India _____ (win) many limited-overs cricket trophies.

C.5 The present perfect is often used with the following time expressions:

until now	for many years
so far	over the last few years
lately	in the past few months
not yet	since 20xx
recently	
in recent years	

Choose five of these time expressions and make sentences about interesting items of news concerning yourself.

Now make groups of four, and tell (not read) each other your news.

C. 6 What has been the situation of your village/town/city five to ten years ago and how has it changed since then? Write a short paragraph describing the changes in its size, population, traffic, buildings, lifestyle etc. Which verb forms would you mainly use to describe the changes?

(Hint: Simple Past and Present Perfect forms.)

C. 7 Your teacher will divide the class into groups of four and ask each group, to present a TV/Radio News Bulletin. In each group, students may take turns to be news presenters and correspondents. The news presenters may break the news and ask the correspondents to give details of what has happened/is happening. Your group may like to include the following news in your bulletin.

- a. National News
- b. International News
- c. Local News
- d. Sports News

- e. Weather Related News
- f. News from the world of Fashion
- g. News from the world of Cinema
- h. School News

After the bulletin is over, discuss the verb forms mostly used.

D. Simple Past Tense-Past Perfect Tense

D.1 Underline the main verbs in the sentences below. Then, rewrite the sentences in the correct order of events.

- 1) The people began to starve.
- 2) In 1925, a disease destroyed the crops in one village.
- 3) Later, the village people came to retrieve their children
- 4) The chief decided to send the children of the village to live in a settlement in the next valley.
- 5) However, they had married outside the village.
- 6) This caused a war between the two villages.

Now work with your partner and tick (✓) the sentence in which a different tense has been used. In pairs, discuss why this has been done.

Sentence No: _____ uses a different tense because

D.2 Study the following sentences.

- 1) I didn't know Jim had migrated to the United States.
- 2) When we arrived at the theatre, the show had already begun.
- 3) The patient had died before the ambulance reached the hospital.
- 4) He had got married by the time he started working.
- 5) I couldn't open the locker because I had mislaid the keys.
- 6) Byom Bakshi felt that he had seen the man somewhere before.

As you can see, each of the above sentences describes two different actions, events or situations. Work with a partner and list them as shown in the example.

A. Occurred First	B. Occurred Later
1. Example: Jim had migrated to the United States.	1. I did not know it. (The speaker came to know the fact later.)
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.

What verb forms have been used in (A) and (B) respectively?

A. _____
B. _____

What conclusion can you draw from your analysis?

D.3 Complete the following sentences correctly by using the simple past or past perfect forms of the given verbs.

- 1) We _____ already _____ (reach) home when Irfan _____ (say) that he _____ (forget) his books at school.
- 2) Wendy _____ (wake up) late, then she _____ (miss) her school bus, so by the time she (reach) school, it _____ already _____ (start).
- 3) I _____ (visit) my town again ten years after I _____ (leave) it and _____ (find) that it _____ completely _____ (change).
- 4) When Feroze and Mehr _____ (meet) for the first time, they _____ (not like) each other but now they are married.

D.4 Find the incorrect sentences and then rewrite them correctly. Put a tick mark (✓) against the sentences that you think are correct.

- 1) By 2005, the singer recorded ten albums.
- 2) When I got to the bank, it had closed.
- 3) Timothy, the tiger, had killed five calves yesterday.
- 4) When Rehman met Mini ten years later, she grew up into a young girl.
- 5) By the time we reached the airport, the flight had left.
- 6) We hardly went a kilometre or so when the car broke down.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

D.5 Carefully study each of the following events or situations described in a set of three sentences/phrases. Then, write a short paragraph to describe each event/situation as shown in the example. Your paragraph should begin with the description of the second event in each case. Use the verb form **had + past participle** to describe the earliest of the past events.

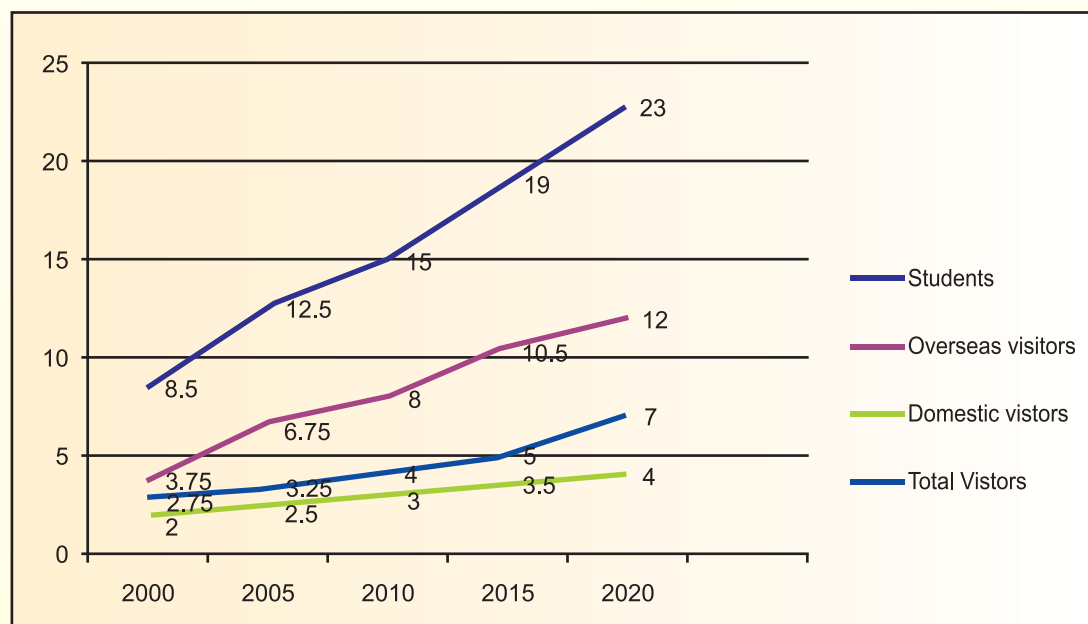
• Somebody burgled the office on Sunday night. • Our arrival at work on Monday morning. • Police informed	We arrived at work on Monday and found that somebody had burgled the office the previous night. So, we immediately informed the police.
• (I) Mayank went out with his family. (ii) I tried to phone him this morning. (iii) His servant answered.	I tried to phone Mayank this morning but the servant _____ _____
• (i) Rohit returned from holiday. (ii) Jayanti met Rohit. (iii) Went to see a film.	Jayanti met Rohit, who _____ _____

- (I) All the arrangements were finalised for the seminar.
- (ii) The seminar participants arrived in Gangtok.
- (iii) Met the professors from the UK the same evening.

The participants arrived in Gangtok. They found

E. Interpreting Data

E.1 The following graph shows the number of visitors (in millions) visiting the famous Salarjung Museum in Hyderabad between 2000 and 2010 as well as the number of visitors expected to visit it in the next ten years.



Number of Visitors to the Salarjung Museum (Hyderabad) in Millions

We can describe the information in the graph in the following way:

(Study the verb forms carefully)

In 2000, the number of students visiting the museum was 2.75 million .

By 2010 the number had risen to 4 million.

If we are referring to figures for the current year we can say:

The number has risen marginally.

If we are predicting figures for the future we can say:

By 2020, the number will have risen to 7 million students OR

It is estimated / predicted that the number will rise to.....

E.2 Now write short paragraphs to describe the trends in the other groups of visitors featured in the graph.

- Overseas Visitors

- Domestic Visitors

- Total Number of Visitors

F. Future Time Reference

We can talk of the present and the past with a degree of certainty. But this is not so with the future. So, we use various verb forms to refer to future events, depending on what we may think is likely to happen, or what is our plan or intention.

F.1 Work with a partner

In the following sentences, choose and circle the verb form you think best fits the meaning of each sentence. You have been provided an example.

1. Tomorrow	is will be is going to be	Wednesday.
2. The train	has left will have left is going to leave	by the time you reach the station.
3. Hurry! The film	does will is about to	start.
4. The Minister	opens is opening is about to open	the new Art Centre next week.
5. This time next year, he	will live is living will be living	in Mumbai.
6. I	am going to be will be will have been	a nurse when I grow up

F.2 Working with the same partner, use the information given below and discuss the reasons for choosing a particular verb form in F.1. Then match the information in the bubbles below with the sentences, and put the sentence number in the space provided, as shown in the example.

1
e.g. Something is expected to happen before a particular time in the future. (Sentence No 2)

2
Statement of a universal truth or fact.
()

3
Something is expected to happen almost immediately
()

4
Simple statement of future plan or intention.
()

5
Sure to happen at a particular time in the future, as arrangements for it have been made.
()

6
Statement of a planned event expected.
()

G. Tenses - Summary

Read the biodata of Sangeeta Rani Puri, India's swimming sensation. Then, complete the interview in the spaces provided. Do NOT add any extra information. Use appropriate tenses.

BIODATA OF SANGEETA RANI PURI

Name	:	Sangeeta Rani Puri
Status	:	Non-resident Indian
Place of Birth	:	Trinidad
Place of Residence	:	USA
Parents	:	Raj Krishna Puri (Father) -famous immigration lawyer Moyna Margaret Puri (mother) - (from Trinidad)
Achievements	:	i) six new national records in five days (Junior National Swimming Meet, Vijaywada) ii) Senior Nationals, October 1995 (Kolkata) - Winner of seven events, five new national records iii) Atlanta Olympics, 1996-proud to represent India in 50m freestyle - best time of her life : 29.02 seconds - no medal.
Future Plans	:	I) Swimming scholarship and training in USA ii) To represent India iii) To win an Olympic Medal.

Interviewer : Sangeeta, since you were in India for only a short while before you flew to Atlanta, would you tell us a little about yourself?

Sangeeta : Well, I'm an Indian and I'm proud to be one.

I: Please tell us about your parents.

S: My father _____
_____ from Trinidad.

I: Have you taken part in any of the National Championships?

S: (Very excited) Yes, _____
_____ at the Junior Nationals
at Vijaywada.

I: How _____
_____ Senior Nationals?

S: I won seven events and _____

I: How do you rate your performance in the Atlanta Olympics in 1996?

S: I _____
in the 50 metres freestyle. It's true that I _____
_____ in Atlanta. But _____

I: Have you _____ for the future?

S: I _____
in the USA. And of course I _____
_____ for as long as possible. Also I _____
_____ in the olympics.

I: Thank you, Sangeeta. I wish you all the best.

S: Thank you very much.

1. Complete the passage by choosing the correct options from those given below.

Pleasure and pain are inseparable facets (a) _____ human existence. While the experience of (b) _____ well-being is rather vague and intangible, (c) _____ of pain is real, and affects our body, mind and spirit, (d) _____ our lives in more ways than one. Pain is an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience caused (e) _____ tissue damage that (f) _____ from physical trauma, burns, illness, injury or surgery. Despite the agony caused (g) _____ pain, it is essential (h) _____ our survival. Pain (i) _____ an alarm bell, (j) _____ you to pay immediate attention and take quick action.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| (a) | (i) in | (ii) on | (iii) of | (iv) by |
| (b) | (i) our | (ii) yours | (iii) one | (iv) your |
| (c) | (i) experiencing | (ii) experience | (iii) experiences | (iv) experienced |
| (d) | (i) alter | (ii) alters | (iii) altered | (iv) altering |
| (e) | (i) by | (ii) with | (iii) in | (iv) on |
| (f) | (i) resulted | (ii) is resulting | (iii) result | (iv) results |
| (g) | (i) by | (ii) on | (iii) in | (iv) of |
| (h) | (i) of | (ii) for | (iii) with | (iv) by |
| (i) | (i) rang | (ii) is ringing | (iii) rung | (iv) rings |
| (j) | (i) alerted | (ii) alerting | (iii) alerts | (iv) alert |

2. **Geetika is learning about China in her Geography classes. She has to give a short talk to her class about Shanghai. Read the notes she has made and then complete the speech she prepares for her class. Do not add any new information. Write only the correct answers against the correct blank numbers in your answer sheets.**

SHANGHAI

- largest Chinese port city
- handles 50% Chinese exports and imports
- " most heavy population in the world
- industrial city number of industries present
- 1842-important after Treaty of Nanking

Shanghai (a) and 50% of all Chinese exports and imports (b) It has also become famous (c) in the world. It can be called (d) number of industries present here. (e) after the Treaty of Nanking was signed here.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) (i) is the largest port city of China | (ii) is a largest port city of China |
| (iii) was a largest port city in China | (iv) was the largest port city in China |
| (b) (i) was handled there | (ii) has been handled here |
| (iii) are handled here | (iv) are being handled there |
| (c) (i) has the more population | (ii) as the most populous city |
| (iii) has the heavy population | (iv) is the most populated city |
| (d) (i) an industrial city because of the | (ii) the industrial city because a |
| (iii) a industrial city as there is the | (iv) an industrial city that has the |

- (e) (i) It has the historical importance. (ii) It gained historic importance
 (iii) It is an historic importance (iv) It has gained historical importance

3. The following passage has not been edited. There is ONE error in each of the first nine lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction as given in the example against the correct blank number in the space provided. Also underline the correct word you have supplied as shown.

Error Correction

Malaria, caused by the bite of a female Anopheles	e.g a.....the
mosquito will become dangerous if care was not taken.	a)
The bite of the mosquito transfer the parasite into	b)
the human system. Malaria is accompanied with high	c)
fever and shivering. This mosquitoes breed in	d)
stagnant water, in puddles, on coolers etc. It is	e)
important to take care that water do not collect	f)
in and around the houses. Garbage can also	g)
be regularly removed so that mosquitoes will not	h)
breed in such damp wastes.	

4. Rearrange the following words and phrases to make meaningful sentences.

- always / the same/ Earth's/ climate/ stayed/ hasn't

1. _____

- an / a period/ periodically/ of/ cold weather/ called /the/ goes through/ especially / Earth/ ice age

2. _____

- an / during/ ice age / polar glaciers/ grow/ the/ bigger.

3. _____

- an ice age / at/ of/ glaciers/ the peak/ may cover/ a third/ as much as/ the Earth / of

4. _____

5. Read the news items given below. Use the information in the headlines to complete the sentences.

1. Ambala police to hire private detectives

to help the Ambala police force in better investigation.

2. Plea against IT officer dismissed

The Haryana High Court

filed by Coca Cola India Inc. against the assistant commissioner of income tax, Gurgaon, and other respondents.

3. Three IAS officers transferred

The Haryana government

and 11 Superintendents of Police, including the Bhiwani SP along with the Deputy Commissioner.

4. New district magistrate takes charges

after that transfer of the erstwhile DM.

- 6. Read the following conversation carefully and complete the following passage by filling in the blank spaces appropriately. Do not add any new information. Write the answers in your answer sheet against the correct blank number.**

Patient : Doctor, I have a terrible toothache.

Doctor : Well, sit down. I need to examine your teeth. Please open your mouth wide.

Patient : Is there any serious problem, doctor?

The patient told the doctor (a) _____. The doctor told him to sit down as (b) _____. He also requested the patient (c) _____. The patient then enquired (d) _____.

7. **Given below is a description of what happened during a fire. One word has been omitted in each line. Mark the place where you think a word has been omitted using '/'. Write the word you think is missing in the space provided.**

There was a fire our street yesterday morning. _____
When I woke up, I looked of the window and saw _____
smoke pouring out of house opposite. Then I _____
saw fire engines arriving their sirens _____
blaring. First one turned the corner and stopped outside _____
the house. All the firemen dashed the house and _____
ran upstairs to the bedrooms. A woman screaming _____
from an upstairs window. She shouted that she locked _____
in the room and not get out. By this time a second _____
fire engine arrived and the firemen held a blanket _____
for her to jump into. The chief shouted that she to jump. _____
You could see that was terrified but suddenly she _____
made the decision and with great scream, she jumped. _____
She landed safely. Afterwards she said that it had the _____
most frightening experience of life. _____