

# TENSE TOPICS

Discuss with a partner the exact meaning and a possible scenario for each of the following sentences. Do them one mini-group at a time, then discuss them with the whole class:

## GROUP A

- 1a I live in Mannheim.
- 1b I do live in Mannheim.
- 1c I'm living in Mannheim.
  
- 2a You're very silly, aren't you?
- 2b You're being very silly, aren't you?
  
- 3a I'm not getting up until 9.00.
- 3b I don't get up until 9.00.
  
- 4a I'm hoping he'll be able to see me.
- 4b I was hoping he'd be able to see me.
- 4c I had hoped he'd be able to see me.
  
- 5a He always asks difficult questions!
- 5b He's always asking difficult questions!
- 5c He always asked difficult questions.
- 5d He has always asked difficult questions.

## GROUP B

- 1a I'll update you when I see you.
- 1b I'll update you if I see you.
- 1c I'll update you whenever I see you.
  
- 2a Will you join us for a drink?
- 2b Will you be joining us for a drink?
  
- 3a We'll have dinner at 8.00.
- 3b We shall have dinner at 8.00.
- 3c We'll be having dinner at 8.00.
  
- 4a We won't have finished until 7.00.
- 4b We'll finish at 7.00.
- 4c We'll be finished by 7.00.
- 4d We'll have finished by 7.00.
  
- 5a I'll see him tomorrow.
- 5b I'm going to see him tomorrow.
- 5c I was going to see him tomorrow.
- 5d I'll have to see him tomorrow.
- 5e I'll have seen him by tomorrow.
  
- 6a I will do the homework tomorrow!
- 6b I'll have done the homework by tomorrow.
- 6c I'll have to do the homework tomorrow.
- 6d I'll have the homework done by tomorrow.
  
- 7a Will you help me tomorrow?
- 7b Won't you help me tomorrow?
- 7c Were you going to help me tomorrow?
- 7d Are you helping me tomorrow?
- 7e Aren't you going to help me tomorrow?
- 7f Will you be helping me tomorrow?

## GROUP C

- 1a I stayed in bed until 9 o'clock.
- 1b I've been staying in bed until 9 o'clock.
- 1c I've been in bed since 9 o'clock.
- 1d I've been to bed before 9 o'clock!
  
- 2a The train left when I arrived at the station.
- 2b The train was leaving when I arrived at the station.
- 2c The train had already left when I arrived at the station.
  
- 3a I had had a bath when she arrived.
- 3b I had a bath when she arrived.
- 3c I was having a bath when she arrived.
  
- 4a I've read this book.
- 4b I was reading that book!
- 4c I've been reading this book.
  
- 5a I had a lot of trouble with my son at that time.
- 5b I'd had a lot of trouble with my son by that time.
- 5c I'd had a lot of trouble with my son for some time.

## GROUP D

- 1a Before the war my dad would spend all his time in pubs.
- 1b Before the war my dad had to spend all his time in pubs.
- 1c Before the war my dad was always spending time in pubs.
  
- 2a At boarding-school I wasn't used to sleeping in a dormitory.
- 2b At boarding-school I got used to sleeping in a dormitory.
- 2c At boarding-school I used to sleep in a dormitory.
  
- 3a I could see she had had trouble.
- 3b I could see she was having trouble.
- 3c I could see that she was going to have trouble.
- 3d I could see she would have trouble.
- 3e I could see that she would have had trouble.
  
- 4a I'm going to help you.
- 4b I was going to help you.
- 4c I will help you.
- 4d I should help you.
- 4e I've got to help you.
  
- 5a I'd had the tea made for 10 minutes when she got up.
- 5b I'd been making the tea for ten minutes when she got up.
- 5c It took me ten minutes to make the tea when she got up.
- 5d I've usually made the tea when my wife gets up.
- 5e I usually make the tea when my wife gets up.
- 5f I'm usually making the tea when my wife gets up.
- 5g I used to make the tea when my wife got up.
- 5h I'm used to making the tea when my wife gets up.
  
- 6a I've told him what will happen!
- 6b I told him what would happen!
- 6c I used to tell him what would happen!