

C.N. GRIVAS

Grammar & Structure

for the **ECPE**



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Unit 1

A GRAMMAR

Present Tenses

Simple Present

- 1 in newspaper headlines
- 2 in sports commentaries
- 3 in demonstrations, descriptions, explanations of actions
- 4 in captions for photos
- 5 in reviews
- 6 in exclamatory structures with **Here / There**
- 7 with verbs such as: **accept, admit, advise, agree, apologize, confess, congratulate, declare, deny, disagree, forbid, insist, name, order, predict, pronounce, propose, recommend, refuse, request, suggest, swear**, etc.

PLANE CRASHES IN MEXICO

Newman **passes** to Gordon. Gordon **shoots** – and it's a goal!
First, I **take** a bowl and **mix** the butter and sugar in it. Then I **add** ...

Sean Penn **receives** Award for Best Actor of 2008.

Meryl Streep **gives** an excellent performance in this musical.

Here **comes** the bride! / Here she **comes**!

There **goes** the boat!

I **apologize** for my rude comments.

I **declare** the meeting open.

I now **pronounce** you man and wife.

(said by a priest at a wedding ceremony)

I **agree**. He **denies** the charges. I **swear** that I never took it.

Present Progressive

- 1 temporary repetition
- 2 gradual change / development
- 3 sth happening **very / too often** (with **always, continually, constantly, forever**)

They're **working** till eight every day this week.

His condition **is improving** every day.

We're **always helping** people in need.

You're **constantly losing** your things.

NOTES:

- 1 **Simple present** and **present progressive** in narratives:

*Suddenly there's a knock on the door. She **opens** it and **sees** a young man. He's **wearing** a blue suit and **is holding** a small bouquet of flowers. [simple present → events, things that happen one after the other
present progressive → background information, things already happening when the story begins or continuing throughout the story]*

- 2 Verbs such as: **like, dislike, hate, believe, consider, think, know, understand, belong, remember, see, smell, hear, taste, sound, mean, include, need, possess, want, wish**, etc. do not have progressive forms.

*I **don't understand**. What **do** you **mean** by that?*

NOTICE THE CHANGE IN MEANING:

- Look at this and tell me what you **see**.
Now I **see** what he's getting at. (= understand)
I'm **seeing** Jason this evening. (= meeting)
- Do you **think** he'll say yes?
I'm **thinking** of changing jobs. (= considering)
- This soup **tastes** / **smells** fantastic.
Why **are** you **tasting** / **smelling** the cheese? Has it gone bad? (= try to find out)

- The baby **weighs** eight pounds.
The butcher **is weighing** the meat.
- Their swimming pool **measures** 30 ft. by 40 ft.
We're **measuring** the floor to see how big a carpet we need.
- I **forget** his name right now.
I'm afraid I'm **forgetting** my French.
(= gradually losing command of)
- He **appears** to be busy.
The band **is appearing** live tonight. (= performing)
- These jeans **don't fit** me any more.
They **are fitting** new cupboards in our kitchen.
- Do you **mind** waiting here?
Who's **minding** the children? (= looking after)

ALSO:

*How **are** you **liking** the party? } [feeling for a period
I'm **loving** every minute of it. } of time – not a
permanent attitude]*

*Now you're **being** silly. (= behaving in a silly way at this particular moment)*

- 3 We use **can / could + see / hear / smell / taste / remember / understand** for something happening at the moment of speaking.
*I **can't hear** what you're saying.
I **couldn't understand** what he meant.*
- 4 **Feel, hurt, ache** can be in the simple present or present progressive without a difference in meaning.
*Do you **feel** / **Are** you **feeling** better?
My back **hurts** / **is hurting**.*

Simple Present Perfect

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | period of time not yet over | <i>I've called her twice this morning.</i> [morning is not over yet] |
| 2 | after: this / it is the first / second,
etc. time | <i>It's the first time I've taken part in a contest.</i> |
| 3 | after: this / it / he, etc. + is
+ superlative | <i>It's the best meal you've made so far.</i> |

NOTES:

- 1 How long **is it / has it been** since you **have spoken / spoke** to him?
It is / has been months since they have visited / visited us.
 [NOT: ... since they ~~haven't visited / didn't visit us.~~]
- 2 **Have gone to / have been to / have been in**
 Mark **has gone to** Boston. (= he is there now)
 Mark **has been to** Boston. (= he has visited Boston)
 Mark **has been in** Boston for a month. (= he is still in Boston and has spent a month there)

- In American English **gone** can be used instead of **been**.
Have you ever gone to Hawaii?

COMPARE:

- I've been here for a week.* (= I came here a week ago.)
I am here for a week. (= I'm going to stay here for a week.)



Present Perfect Progressive

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | sth that started in the past and is still continuing | <i>I've been trying to fix the computer since this morning.</i> |
| 2 | finished action with visible result in the present | <i>It's been raining all night and the streets have flooded.</i> |
| 3 | irritation / annoyance / surprise about a recent past action | <i>Who's been eating in the living room? There are crumbs all over the carpet.</i> |

NOTES:

- 1 Only the **simple present perfect** is used with **non-progressive verbs**.
I've known him for years.
How long have you had this car?
I've always hated this color.
- 2 With **work, live, study, teach, stay,** etc. we can use either the **simple present perfect** or the **present perfect progressive**.
I've been working / have worked in this company since 1997.
He has been teaching / has taught math for thirty years.

PRACTICE

1 Choose the correct answer.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 The headline read: "PRESIDENT _____ NEW TAX CUTS."
a IS ANNOUNCING b ANNOUNCES | 6 Tonight will be the first time she _____ the car by herself.
a is driving b has driven |
| 2 I _____ to reach him on the phone since Monday.
a am trying b have been trying | 7 Mr. Connors _____ your behavior to be inappropriate.
a considers b is considering |
| 3 We _____ the pleasure of your company at our daughter's wedding.
a request b are requesting | 8 Every week since it was launched, Marian _____ that magazine.
a is buying b has bought |
| 4 Barbara is angry because she _____ problems with her new computer.
a is always having b has always | 9 Alison _____ rather tired lately.
a has been appearing b appears |
| 5 Ted _____ to fix this light for the past hour.
a has been trying b has tried | 10 What a mess! It looks like the puppy _____ around in the mud again.
a has run b has been running |

2 Fill in the correct present tense.

- 1 Tonight Shakira and her band _____ (**appear**) for a single performance.
- 2 Although they _____ (**know**) each other for only a month, they act like a married couple.
- 3 He _____ (**pass**) the ball to Ronaldo who _____ (**score**) a magnificent goal!
- 4 This is the worst pizza I _____ (**eat**) in my entire life!
- 5 Her eyes are red because she _____ (**cry**).
- 6 This is only the third game they _____ (**play**) this season.
- 7 He _____ constantly _____ (**criticize**) her.
- 8 Lately, the stores around here _____ (**charge**) twice as much as normal.
- 9 There _____ (**go**) the train!
- 10 I _____ (**see**) her this evening.

B DERIVATIVES

a Fill in the noun.

	VERB	-ance	-ence
1	annoy	_____	_____
2	excel	_____	_____
3	guide	_____	_____
4	persist	_____	_____
5	interfere	_____	_____
6	tolerate	_____	_____
7	maintain	_____	_____
8	neglect	_____	_____
9	dominate	_____	_____
10	obey	_____	_____

b Fill in the correct noun from the table.

- 1 The accident was caused by _____ on the part of the Renault driver.
- 2 They hate his _____ in their financial affairs.
- 3 Unsure of what to do, she looked at her driving instructor for _____.
- 4 With this new product, the company has established its _____ of the market.
- 5 His _____ was finally rewarded when she agreed to go out with him.
- 6 I tried hard not to show my _____ when he interrupted me for a second time.
- 7 The captain demands complete _____ from his soldiers.
- 8 We need to show greater _____ of minority groups.
- 9 This university has a reputation for academic _____.
- 10 The residents pay for the heating and _____ of the building.



C PHRASAL VERBS

- carry on (with):** continue doing sth
- catch on:** 1 understand sth
2 become popular
- count on:** trust sb or that sth will happen
- look on:** watch sth without becoming involved
- put on:** 1 pretend
2 present / produce (esp. a play / performance)
3 gain weight
- take on:** employ sb
- turn on:** 1 start (electricity / gas / water)
2 attack sb unexpectedly
- wait on:** 1 serve food and drink
2 wait for sth to happen before making a decision

1 Fill in the correct verb in the appropriate form.

- Several people just _____ **on** while she was being robbed.
- Without warning, the dog suddenly _____ **on** the old man.
- The teacher told us to _____ **on** with our exercises while he was out of the classroom.
- Very few people can _____ **on** having a secure job nowadays.
- The doctor is _____ **on** the test results before deciding what to do.
- Before summer the hotel will be _____ **on** extra staff.
- Miniskirts have _____ **on** again.
- He _____ **on** a British accent to attract the girls.

2 Choose the correct meaning of the phrasal verb in bold.

- The school will **put on** a play before Christmas.
a pretend b produce
- Are you being **waited on**, sir?
a served b waited for
- Do not **turn on** the power until I tell you.
a attack b activate
- It is normal to **put on** a few pounds during Easter.
a gain b produce
- Only after we had explained it to her for the third time did she finally **catch on**.
a become popular b understand



D PREPOSITIONS

1 Fill in the correct preposition.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 a be on the point _____ | 5 a according _____ | 9 a _____ general |
| b be about _____ | b in accordance _____ | b _____ the whole |
| 2 a conform _____ | 6 a in addition _____ | 10 a _____ what I know |
| b comply _____ | b on top _____ | b _____ the best of my knowledge |
| 3 a _____ my opinion | 7 a blame sb _____ sth | |
| b _____ my mind | b put the blame _____ sb | |
| 4 a _____ mistake | 8 a _____ danger | |
| b _____ error | b _____ risk | |

2 Fill in the correct preposition.

at • for • in • on • out of • under

Several street gangs were [1] _____ **war** and the situation had gotten [2] _____ **control**. The authorities needed to know [3] _____ **certain** why the violence was [4] _____ **the increase**. A tough detective called Makenzie decided to find out by arranging to be given information from criminals [5] _____ **exchange for** money. If the criminals did not agree, Makenzie would threaten to place them [6] _____ **arrest**. [7] _____ **condition that** they cooperated fully, they would also be placed [8] _____ police **protection**.

3 Fill in about, of or with.

- 1 The child will be placed in the **care** _____ his grandparents.
- 2 She is very selfish and only **cares** _____ herself.
- 3 Be very **careful** _____ that vase when you're dusting it! It's an antique.

4 Fill in the correct preposition.

with • of • in • to • at • about

The resort we were staying [1] _____ was unpleasant and the beach was crowded [2] _____ people, so I decided to take a tour [3] _____ the area's archeological sites. I had never been crazy [4] _____ such tours, but on that day I was to discover an interest [5] _____ the subject. In fact, walking through the ancient ruins started to really appeal [6] _____ me and helped me decide that I would specialize [7] _____ archeology. This area would become the focus [8] _____ my work.

E COMMON ERRORS

Tick (✓) if the sentence is correct or correct the mistake.

- 1 It's ten years ago since I last saw her.

- 2 He thinks to ask for a raise.

- 3 It has been days since I have spoken to them.

- 4 My daughter is now weighing 25 pounds.

- 5 I am seeing Mrs. Johnson later on today.

- 6 This jacket isn't fitting me any more.

- 7 I'm here for a week on business.

- 8 He is trying to finish the book for over a year.

- 9 He is looking more and more like his father as the years go by.

- 10 They aren't good friends. In fact, they hardly don't know each other.



F SPECIAL LANGUAGE POINTS

Tick (✓) the correct sentence.

- 1 It was so cold my teeth were shivering.
It was so cold my teeth were chattering.
- 2 I'm friends with your sister.
I'm friend with your sister.
- 3 They live on the outskirts of town.
They live on the outskirt of town.
- 4 After a week, we're going to Spain.
In a week's time, we're going to Spain.
- 5 It must be a far way to the next town.
It must be a long way to the next town.
- 6 They had to request more help.
They had to request for more help.
- 7 In summer, we often take our meals in the garden.
In summer, we often have our meals in the garden.
- 8 She got revenge on her ex-husband by getting the house and half the business.
She revenged on her ex-husband by getting the house and half the business.
- 9 The children were dancing with joy.
The children were dancing from joy.
- 10 The hijacker threatened to explode the airplane.
The hijacker threatened to blow up the airplane.

G CLOZE

According to archeologists, there is enough evidence to prove that people have [1] ___ artificially beautifying themselves with cosmetics to a greater or [2] ___ degree since as long ago as 4,000 BC. Cosmetics (more commonly called make-up) were not confined only [3] ___ women either, as men also applied [4] ___ so as to enhance their looks.

However, beauty, as we all know, often comes [5] ___ a price. Early cosmetics little resembled the relatively harmless ones so readily available in stores today. Instead, it was not unusual for potentially fatal [6] ___ such as white lead to be one of the primary ingredients.

In modern times, Max Factor [7] ___ to revolutionize the world of cosmetics in the 1890s. Years spent mixing potions as an apprentice pharmacist had equipped him [8] ___ sufficient knowledge to create the perfect theatrical make-up which [9] ___ caked nor cracked. This, along with his own range of handmade rouges, creams, fragrances and [10] ___ wigs sold from his own store in a suburb of Moscow, soon came to the attention of the Russian nobility and the door to fame and fortune opened wide.

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | a to | b were | c been | d had |
| 2 | a lesser | b least | c little | d less |
| 3 | a at | b for | c with | d to |
| 4 | a their | b it | c them | d those |
| 5 | a in | b at | c to | d by |
| 6 | a chemist | b chemistry | c chemicals | d chemically |
| 7 | a was | b would | c had | d is |
| 8 | a for | b to | c about | d with |
| 9 | a whether | b either | c nor | d neither |
| 10 | a as | b even | c so | d more |

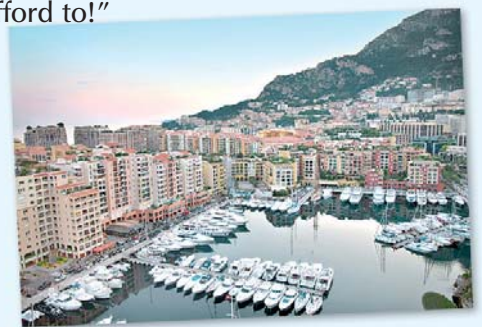
CONSOLIDATION AND FURTHER PRACTICE

Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Even though Sally's _____ Chicago only once, she knows a lot about the city.
- gone
 - been to
 - gone in
 - been in
- 2 Julie's dog is much more _____ to her than her cat.
- obeyed
 - obedient
 - obeying
 - obedience
- 3 "What's your opinion of Tom?"
"_____ a thief is certain."
- That he's
 - That's
 - It's he's
 - It's
- 4 My sister isn't answering her cellphone. She may _____ it in the car.
- left
 - have left
 - had left
 - have been leaving
- 5 This is the third time I _____ her sing.
- am hearing
 - hear
 - have heard
 - have been hearing
- 6 "Do you think she'll do well in her math test?"
"_____."
- I doubt it
 - I doubt so
 - So I doubt it
 - I doubt not
- 7 Before you _____ for the island, check the return boat schedules.
- to leave
 - are leaving
 - leave
 - have left
- 8 In my country they use euros, _____ in America they use dollars.
- whereas
 - whereby
 - even if
 - nevertheless
- 9 "My brother's going to Brazil."
"Lucky him. I _____ to go there."
- always want
 - have always wanted
 - am always wanting
 - always have been wanting
- 10 A mother-in-law should avoid _____ in her children's affairs.
- interfering
 - to interfere
 - interference
 - the interference
- 11 Ashley's phone is off again. Why _____ remember to switch it on?
- can she ever
 - she can never
 - can't she ever
 - she doesn't ever
- 12 When they announced the teacher would be absent, Ricky _____ a sad face.
- put on
 - looked on
 - turned on
 - caught on
- 13 The annoying thing about Daryl is that he _____.
- is always giggling
 - always giggles
 - giggles always
 - has been giggling
- 14 _____ an accident. Can I make a phone call?
- There's being
 - It's been
 - There's been
 - It's to be

- 15 "Can I borrow your pen?"
"Sorry, I don't have ____."
- one
 - other
 - only one
 - others
- 16 The more you listen to classical music, the more you ____ it.
- are understanding
 - understand
 - have understood
 - have been understanding
- 17 Nick is going to be fired! He ____ on time for the past month.
- isn't
 - won't be
 - wasn't
 - hasn't been
- 18 The steel used in this machine must be ____ of high temperatures.
- tolerable
 - intolerant
 - tolerant
 - intolerable
- 19 We ____ our children to watch shows with a lot of violence.
- don't allow ever
 - aren't ever allowing
 - don't ever allow
 - aren't allowing ever
- 20 Jim has the ____ habit of dropping in on people late at night.
- annoyance
 - annoying
 - annoyingly
 - annoyed
- 21 We then realized that the program had been deleted ____ error.
- in
 - by
 - with
 - from
- 22 "Do you still take the bus to work?"
"Not since I ____ a car."
- get
 - got
 - will get
 - had gotten
- 23 He always forgets my name ____ often I tell him.
- nevertheless
 - despite of the fact
 - no matter how
 - however much
- 24 Baseball is very interesting ____.
- to watch
 - to watch it
 - to be watching
 - in watching it
- 25 The match was canceled ____ the terrible weather.
- due to
 - because
 - as
 - from
- 26 "Do you know Mr. Owens?"
"Of course! He ____ here for 25 years."
- is teaching
 - teaches
 - has taught
 - will be teaching
- 27 For several years, the company has been the world's ____ toy maker.
- dominating
 - dominated
 - predominantly
 - dominant
- 28 ____ to be more snow tomorrow.
- It may
 - It's likely
 - There's likely
 - It's

- 29 I'll give you the details _____ I receive them.
 a so and when
 b as and then
 c if and when
 d as and when
- 30 _____ the best of my knowledge, his flight arrives at six.
 a From
 b To
 c With
 d In
- 31 Although trained as an electrician, Bob _____ at whatever he does.
 a excellent
 b excellence
 c excels
 d is excelling
- 32 "Why are we making so much food, Mom?"
 "It's important _____ enough for everyone."
 a for there be
 b for there to be
 c for to be
 d for being
- 33 That dog's forever _____ shut in the bathroom.
 a gets
 b getting
 c got
 d is getting
- 34 For centuries, Feng Shui _____ for agricultural planning.
 a is being used
 b has been used
 c was using
 d had used
- 35 There was only a _____ price difference between the two models.
 a neglected
 b negligible
 c negligence
 d negligibly
- 36 Since he changed schools, Steve's grades _____.
 a have worsen
 b aren't worsened
 c haven't worsened
 d are worst
- 37 _____ we hadn't had enough money with us?
 a It would have been better
 b If
 c What if
 d Only if
- 38 I can't help you. I've got too much work to do _____.
 a so it is
 b as it is
 c such as it is
 d as is
- 39 Not only was the air full of dust, but it was also getting dark, which made it _____ difficult to see.
 a so more
 b so much as
 c as more
 d all the more
- 40 "Why don't you go on a trip to Europe this summer?"
 " _____ I could afford to!"
 a Unless
 b However
 c If only
 d Providing



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- ✓ prepositional phrases
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