Progressive and Emphatic Forms

Each of the six tenses has a **progressive form** that expresses a continuing action.

You make the progressive forms by using the appropriate tense of the verb *be* plus the present participle of the main verb.

- **PRESENT PROGRESSIVE**
  - They *are waiting*.

- **PAST PROGRESSIVE**
  - They *were waiting*.

- **FUTURE PROGRESSIVE**
  - They *will be waiting*.

- **PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE**
  - They *have been waiting*.

- **PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE**
  - They *had been waiting*.

- **FUTURE PERFECT PROGRESSIVE**
  - They *will have been waiting*.

The present and past tenses have additional forms, called **emphatic**, that add special force, or emphasis, to the verb.

You make the emphatic forms by using *do* (or *does*) or *did* plus the base form of the verb.

- **PRESENT EMPHATIC**
  - *I do* think you’re right.
  - Olga *does* think you’re right.

- **PAST EMPHATIC**
  - *I did* think you were right.

Exercise 15 Using the Progressive and Emphatic Forms

For each of the following sentences, replace each verb in parentheses with the progressive or the emphatic form of the verb that makes sense in the sentence. (Only one of the sentences requires the emphatic form.)

**Zydeco Music**

1. In southern Louisiana years ago, the words *zydeco au soir*—“zydeco tonight”—hollered by a man on horseback meant that the rider (announce) a local dance.
2. He (refer) to an event named for the kind of music that would be played as part of the evening’s entertainment.
3. That music was zydeco, a fast dance music with a highly syncopated beat, which (develop) in Louisiana over the past 150 years.
4. Zydeco (deviate) increasingly in recent years from its Cajun, African American, and African Caribbean origins.
5. Today, rhythm-and-blues tunes and soul (influence) the musicians who play zydeco.
Exercise 16 Understanding the Uses of Verb Tenses

Explain the difference in meaning between the sentences in each of the pairs below. Name the tense(s) used in each sentence.

**SAMPLE**

a. The artisan drills a hole in a clam shell.
   
b. The artisan has drilled a hole in a clam shell.

**ANSWER**

In sentence *a*, the action is going on now (present tense). In sentence *b*, the action occurred at some indefinite time in the past (present perfect tense).

Native American Beadwork

1. a. I saw a demonstration of Native American beadwork.
   b. I have seen a demonstration of Native American beadwork.

2. a. At the demonstration, a friend of mine noticed that one of the workers had drilled holes in a great many turquoise beads.
   b. At the demonstration, a friend of mine noticed that one of the workers was drilling holes in a great many turquoise beads.

3. a. Soon another worker will weave some of the beads into a zigzag pattern.
   b. Soon another worker will have woven some of the beads into a zigzag pattern.

4. a. A beautiful wampum belt has been evolving at his fingertips.
   b. A beautiful wampum belt evolved at his fingertips.

5. a. I did applaud the worker’s skill.
   b. I am applauding the worker’s skill.

6. a. A third worker had beaded a pair of moccasins before arriving.
   b. A third worker was beading a pair of moccasins at the demonstration.

7. a. By the time we finish this project, the worker will have spent many hours on it.
   b. The worker will spend many hours on this project.

8. a. Young apprentices are learning the older masters’ skills.
   b. Young apprentices have learned the older masters’ skills.

9. a. Fine examples of beadwork are growing in value.
   b. Fine examples of beadwork will be growing in value.

10. a. We have been spending a fascinating day at the demonstration.
    b. By the end of the demonstration, we will have spent a fascinating day.

Exercise 17 Expressing Past Time in a Paragraph

Write a paragraph of at least five sentences about an important historical event that you remember or have studied. Underline five verbs or verb phrases that you use in the paragraph. (Remember that the perfect tenses, as well as the past tense, can be used to express past past action.)