**Practise the tenses**

**1. Rewrite the following sentences starting with the given time word.**

1.1 I listen to Talk Radio 702. (At six o’ clock this morning)

1.2 I bought a new CD. (By then)

1.3 My books keep me busy on rainy days. (In future)

1.4 Julius enjoys watermelon. (At this moment)

1.5 Uncle John gets angry if I don’t listen to him. (Last year)

**2. Choose the correct form of the present tense. Decide whether a or b in each pair of sentences better expresses these statements**.

**2.1 Today I am joining my new friend at his church for the first time.**

a I go to the Methodist church in President Street.

b I am going to the Methodist Church in President Street.

**2.2 My dad cooks lunch on his gas braai after church every weekend.**

a We are having a braai for Sunday lunch.

b We have a braai for Sunday lunch.

**2.3 Usually I listen to Radio 5, but today there is a discussion that I want to hear on another radio station.**

a I listen to Talk Radio 702.

b I am listening to Talk Radio 702.

**2.4 Usually my dad goes to work by bus, but today the drivers are on strike.**

a My dad goes to work on a bicycle.

b My dad is going to work on a bicycle.

**2.5 Most afternoons, Mahela and I play basketball at his house, but today I have too much homework**.

a I watch Mahela play basketball with Sureh.

b I am watching Mahela play basketball with Suresh.

**3 Write a rule for using the present continuous tense.**

**4 Choose the correct form of the past tense.**

**Decide whether sentence a or b in each pair of sentences better expresses these statements.**

**4.1 My parents have been married for twenty-four and a half years.**

a In January, my parents will have been married for 25 years.

b In January, my parents were married for 25 years.

**4.2 Paula and I are going to a concert together on Saturday night.**

a Paula was my girlfriend for two years.

b Paula has been my girlfriend for two years.

**4.3 The soccer season has not ended yet.**

a Jabu has been a great goalkeeper all season.

b Jabu was a great goalkeeper all season.

**4 Christine and Ethel have finally agreed on a theme for their party.**

a Christine and Ethel argued for two weeks.

b Christine and Ethel have been arguing for two weeks.

**4.1 We now live in Wellington.**

a We have been living in Paarl for three years.

b We lived in Paarl for three years.

**4.2 My twin brother and I now attend Southcliffe Boys’ School.**

a We have been going to Swinton Boys’ School for two years.

b We went to Swinton Boys’ School for two years.

**4.3 Thando died in January.**

a Thando and George were married for about twenty years.

b Thando and George have been married for about twenty years.

**4.4 Kim and I had a big row last month, and it doesn’t look as if we’re ever going to make up**.

a Kim and I have been friends from the age of eight.

b Kim and I were friends from the age of eight.

**4.5 I took up hockey as a winter sport this year.**

a. I have been playing rugby at school.

b. I used to play rugby at school.

**4.6 A new Spar shop opened near our house yesterday.**

a I used to buy bread at the Spar.

b I bought bread at the Spar.