**Practise the tenses**

**Memo**

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

1.1 At six o’ clock this morning I was listening to Talk Radio 702.

1.2 By then I will have bought a new CD.

1.3 In future my books will keep me busy on rainy days.

1.4 At this moment Julius is enjoying watermelon.

1.5 Last year Uncle John got angry if I didn’t listen to him.

**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 Suresh.

b. I am watching Mahela play basketball with Suresh.

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

The general rule is that we use the continuous –ing form of the verb when the action is taking place right now, not when it is something that happens over and over again, or all the time as, for example, in *We always have a braai for Sunday lunch.*

**12. 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.

**4.4 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.

**4.5 We now live in Wellington.**

a We have been living in Paarl for three years.

b We lived in Paarl for three years.

**4.6 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.

**4.7 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.

**4.8 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.

**4.9 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.

**4.10 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.