

# TENSE SHIFT

**Directions:** Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

1. Aunt Lillian <sup>(A)</sup> had frozen four quarts of her homegrown strawberries, but she <sup>(B)</sup> lost them after the hurricane <sup>(C)</sup> was knocking out power for eight days.
  - A. froze
  - B. had lost
  - C. knocked
  - D. No change is necessary.
2. Because Sammy had been eating all of the chocolate mint ice cream before she got home, Roxanne whacked him over the head.
  - A. ate
  - B. was eating
  - C. had eaten
  - D. No change is necessary.
3. Carlos <sup>(A)</sup> pawed at his hair and <sup>(B)</sup> shook his head, but he <sup>(C)</sup> cannot dislodge the giant spider tangled in his curls.
  - A. was pawing
  - B. was shaking
  - C. could not
  - D. No change is necessary.

4. Grandpa planted a backyard garden, hoping that it **was helping** with the high cost of food.
- A. will help
  - B. would help
  - C. helped
  - D. No change is necessary.
5. When Gretchen <sup>(A)</sup> **was** a freshman, she <sup>(B)</sup> **wanted** to major in biology, but after her first rat dissection, she <sup>(C)</sup> **couldn't** change her major fast enough.
- A. had been
  - B. was wanting
  - C. cannot
  - D. No change is necessary.
6. Everyone **is sleeping** soundly when Brendan dropped the glass pitcher of lemonade on the stone tiles of the kitchen floor.
- A. had been sleeping
  - B. slept
  - C. would sleep
  - D. No change is necessary.
7. Ancient Egyptians <sup>(A)</sup> **spent** their entire lives preparing for their death and burial. Today, however, people <sup>(B)</sup> **are thinking** that such arrangements <sup>(C)</sup> **are** morbid and impolite to discuss.
- A. were spending
  - B. think
  - C. would be
  - D. No change is necessary.

8. When Felicia saw the turtle trying to cross the busy road, she leaped out of her car and **had carried** the reptile to safety at the other side.
- A. was carrying
  - B. carried
  - C. will carry
  - D. No change is necessary.
9. George Washington <sup>(A)</sup> **believed** that he was invincible in battle. He <sup>(B)</sup> **rode** a conspicuous white horse that made him an easy target, yet no bullet <sup>(C)</sup> **had hit** him, validating his conviction of invulnerability.
- A. had believed
  - B. was riding
  - C. hit
  - D. No change is necessary.
10. We **would have** bite marks on our ankles and scratches on our thighs ever since adopting Nelson, our feisty kitten.
- A. had
  - B. have
  - C. will have
  - D. No change is necessary.

