

ASV I – Week 21 – Exercise

1. Choose the best tense forms to express the future in the following.

Scientists say that the level of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere is increasing at an alarming rate, and they forecast that it (1) (a) *continues* (b) *is continuing* (c) *WILL CONTINUE* to rise while we (2) (a) *continue* (b) *will continue* (c) *will be continuing* to burn fossil fuels. They believe that this build-up of carbon dioxide (3) (a) *causes* (b) *is causing* (c) *will cause* a marked rise in the earth's temperature in the twenty-first century. If they (4) (a) *are* (b) *are being* (c) *are going to be* proved right, we (5) (a) *see* (b) *are seeing* (c) *will be seeing* unprecedented climatic change in the next century. Because when the earth's temperature (6) (a) *rises* (b) *will rise* (c) *will have risen* ice caps will melt and seas will rise. And as the seas (7) (a) *rise* (b) *will rise* (c) *are going to rise*, there will be widespread flooding.

A report some years ago suggested that in the third quarter of the next century, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (8) (a) *is doubling* (b) *will have doubled* (c) *will have been doubling*. If this massive build-up of carbon dioxide (9) (a) *occurs* (b) *is occurring* (c) *will have occurred* the average earth temperature will increase by several degrees.

Another report claims that these serious climatic changes (10) (a) *actually begin* (b) *are actually beginning* (c) *will actually begin* rather sooner. It says as the changes (11) (a) *take* (b) *have taken* (c) *will take* effect, some northern areas – New York for example – could become semi-tropical. This report also says that the growing season (12) (a) *becomes* (b) *will become* (c) *has become* longer in some areas, but that in the south drier conditions (13) (a) *decrease* (b) *are decreasing* (c) *will decrease* crop yields.

Nothing that we (14) (a) *do* (b) *are doing* (c) *will do* in the next few decades will make much difference, it seems, unless we (15) (a) *stop* (b) *are stopping* (c) *will be stopping* burning fossil fuels. I only hope the scientists (16) (a) *manage* (b) *are managing* (c) *will be managing* to come up with a solution. If they (17) (a) *don't* (b) *won't* (c) *haven't*, then there are global problems ahead. Perhaps we'll only realize the extent of the problem when we (18) (a) *leave* (b) *are leaving* (c) *have left* it too late.

2. Decide what time is broadly being referred to by the modals in the following. Mark each sentence Past, Present or Future - or Future in the past.

- 1 Come early and we *can* have a picnic.
- 2 *Can* there be life on Mars?
- 3 It *may* well rain tomorrow.
- 4 You *may* be old, but that doesn't excuse you.
- 5 *Shall* we ever discover the truth?
- 6 The sea *could* be very rough that winter.
- 7 My cousin *could* be over there, but you're in the way.
- 8 You *will* be paid.
- 9 She hasn't telephoned - she *might* be ill.

- 10 Try as he *might* - he was unable to open the safe.
- 11 He *might* still come.
- 12 It's so cold - it *could* be the middle of winter.
- 13 I *could* telephone later if you like.
- 14 All he *would* do was accept £5.
- 15 It was late in the year. Soon it *would* be Christmas.
- 16 I *should* think it's much too expensive.
- 17 I telephoned so that they *shouldn't* worry.
- 18 I'm sorry you *should* think so.