CHAPTER 9: Present and Past Tenses

Answer Key

PRACTICE 1
1. Every writer (want, wants) to seem clever and to be talked about, according to George Orwell.
2. Most human beings (like, likes) to be remembered.
3. Also, a beautiful or moving moment (become, becomes) immortal with writing.
4. A good writer (attempt, attempts) to show others the beauty of certain places.
5. People also (write, writes) to create a historical record of events.
6. Some writers (hope, hopes) to persuade others with their words.
7. Literary works (need, needs) to document political events.
8. George Orwell’s book Animal Farm (show, shows) certain injustices, and it (criticize, criticizes) Soviet-style communism.
9. Some lies (need, needs) to be exposed.
10. Art (have, has) a relationship with politics.

PRACTICE 2
1. Her full name ___is___ Joanne Katherine Rowling. She __is__ from Bristol, England, and she ___is___ the child of middle-class parents. Currently, she __is___ over forty years old.

2. Rowling’s books ___are____ about a child named Harry Potter. The child ___has___ no parents. His cruel aunt and uncle ___are___ his guardians. They __have___ their own child, whom they spoil, but they treat Harry horribly. Harry ___has___ a tiny bedroom under the stairs, and he ___is___ extremely unhappy.

3. As the story progresses, Harry goes to a special private school. He __has___ two close friends in the new school, and he ___is___ able to use his special powers to fight evil.

4. The Harry Potter novels follow a literary tradition. Many fairy tales ___are___ about an orphan who overcomes obstacles. Often, cruel relatives or stepparents ___are___ in charge of the orphan. The child ___has___ no option but to grow up quickly and escape from the evil surrogate family.

PRACTICE 3
1. Do
2. Are
3. Do
4. Is
5. Do
6. Is
7. Are
8. Do
9. Is
PRACTICE 4
A. 
1. In *The Lord of the Rings*, a little hobbit make his friends with a wizard.
   Negative Form: *does not make*; Contraction: *doesn’t make*

2. He live in a small house.
   Negative Form: *does not live*; Contraction: *doesn’t live*

3. His best friend, Sam, eat a lot of greasy food.
   Negative Form: *does not eat*; Contraction: *doesn’t eat*

4. They leave their village to go on a journey.
   Negative Form: *do not leave*; Contraction: *don’t leave*

5. Frodo own a special ring.
   Negative Form: *does not own*; Contraction: *doesn’t own*

6. They stay up late every night.
   Negative Form: *do not stay*; Contraction: *don’t stay*

7. The hobbits meet some elves.
   Negative Form: *do not meet*; Contraction: *don’t meet*

B. 
8. Their journey is dangerous.
   Negative Form: *is not*; Contraction: *isn’t*

9. The hobbits are brave.
   Negative Form: *are not*; Contraction: *aren’t*

10. J. R. R. Tolkien’s books are expensive.
    Negative Form: *are not*; Contraction: *aren’t*

PRACTICE 5

1. Four Harlequin romance novels sells every second.

2. Romance novels are translated into many languages, but most of the writers be from the United States, Canada, or Britain.

3. A typical romance novel follow a formula.

4. Initially, the heroine do not like the hero, and she struggles against her growing attraction.
5. Romance novels do not have sad endings.
6. Be chick lit and romance novels the same thing?
7. In so-called “chick lit,” the heroine do not always fall in love.
8. Why do Heather Graham write romance novels?
10. Stories about exciting relationships provides readers with an escape from reality.

PRACTICE 6
1. hope _hoped_
2. try _tried_
3. stay _stay_
4. employ _employed_
5. study _studied_
6. plan _plan_
7. rain _rained_
8. rest _rested_
9. deny _denied_
10. ban _banned_

PRACTICE 7
1. created
2. described; aimed
3. wanted
4. changed
5. agreed
6. earned
7. battled
8. fired
9. accepted
10. signed
11. watched; received
12. offered
PRACTICE 8
1. In 1833, the first American tabloid, the New York Sun, hit the streets. Boys sold the tabloids on street corners. Journalists gave readers stories about political scandals, murders, and other crimes.

2. In the 1952, a new tabloid rose to prominence. An Italian publisher, Generoso Pope, Jr., bought a newspaper called the Enquirer. It was full of horse-racing tips.

3. Pope paid about $70,000 for the Enquirer. The paper’s focus changed from horse racing to bizarre and gory stories about cannibalism and other crimes. The Enquirer’s staff made up incredible stories. Readers usually thought that the stories were true.

PRACTICE 9
1. In the early 1950s, there were many hoax stories in the National Enquirer. However, in the late 1950s, that situation changed. Each journalist was careful to include true stories about celebrities. The friends and employees of the famous were often greedy, and they were ready to sell information to the tabloids.

2. Some popular celebrities were on the front covers of the tabloids each week. For example, during the 1960s, the love life of Elizabeth Taylor was front-page news. Her many marriages were the fodder for gossip columnists. Often, reporters were disguised as bellhops or police officers. By wearing disguises, they were able to get close to movie stars. For example, a photographer was able to take photographs of Taylor by posing as a waiter.

PRACTICE 10
1. wasn’t
2. didn’t eat
3. didn’t make
4. didn’t speak
5. didn’t lie
6. didn’t do
7. didn’t wash
8. weren’t
9. didn’t do
10. didn’t open

PRACTICE 11
1. Last year, I **read** about an alien baby in a newspaper tabloid. Of course, I **knew** that the story **was** false, but I **have** fun reading it. Hoax journalism is not new. In the nineteenth century, most respected newspapers **cost** six cents. However, “pulp **fiction,” filled with sensational stories, **sold** for one penny. The penny newspapers **were** extremely popular and profitable.

2. Some of America’s greatest writers **thought** that pulp fiction was mediocre, but those same writers **craved** the large audiences that penny newspapers provided. Mark Twain, for example, **wrote** a story about a headless killer. The killer **ran** through the streets holding his wife’s scalp. Edgar Allan Poe also **felt** curious about hoax stories. In 1844, **saw** he created a story about a giant balloon that could cross oceans. He **see** into the future because the first hot-air balloon **crossed** the ocean more than one hundred years later, in 1978.
3. One of the most widespread hoaxes involved “moon men.” In 1835, the *New York Sun* printed articles about the moon’s furry, winged creatures. According to the newspaper, Sir John Hershel, a respected astronomer, built a giant, powerful telescope. Each article was full of details about Hershel’s observations.

4. People were ready to believe the moon men stories. The articles had enough facts to seem plausible. An astronomer named Hershel actually existed. Also, many citizens were worried about Halley’s comet, so they often looked at the skies. They soon realized that they should not believe everything in newspapers.

5. More recently, in 1999, newspapers and magazines reported dubious “facts” about the millennium bug. People bought supplies and dug bomb shelters. They were scared of widespread power failures. The media contributed to the mass hysteria. Many people were amazed when nothing major happened on January 1, 2000.

**PRACTICE 13**

1. Amy Tan’s mother, Daisy, left an abusive husband in China and went to the United States. She had three daughters, but her husband did not let her take none of her daughters with her. Daisy married John Tan, and they had a daughter named Amy. Her parents did not have no other daughters, but they had two sons.

2. Amy’s mother did not want her daughter to make no mistakes. She pushed Amy to enter medical school, but Amy didn’t have no ambition to be a doctor. Amy rebelled and decided to study English instead. Amy also rebelled by moving to San Francisco so that she could be near her boyfriend. There wasn’t no reason for her to stay in Oakland.
3. Amy’s relationship with her mother improved in later years. In 1987, they traveled to China together to meet Mrs. Tan’s long-lost daughters. Amy’s first novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, was inspired by her mother’s life, and it became an international best-seller. Most reviewers didn’t say anything bad about the novel.

**FINAL REVIEW**

1. The Federal Anti-Obscenity Act passed in 1873. After that, citizens were not able to buy certain novels. For example, in 1915, the U.S. government did not permit Americans to import James Joyce’s classic novel *Ulysses*. Officials called the book obscene. Some activists fought the government, and in 1930, they won the right to publish the book in the United States. In 2000, the Modern Library chose *Ulysses* as the best book of the twentieth century.

2. Between 1873 and 2000, school districts and libraries in the United States banned hundreds of novels for a variety of reasons. For example, in 1939, administrators at the St. Louis Public Library stopped lending John Steinbeck’s classic *The Grapes of Wrath* because they thought that the novel’s language was vulgar. In the 1960s, some people went to other countries to buy the American classic *The Catcher in the Rye* because many states banned the novel. In the 1990s, some officials didn’t want to stock any copies of Mark Twain’s *Huckleberry Finn* because they believed that the book portrayed African Americans in a negative way. Some people also disliked the portrayal of Shylock, a Jewish merchant, in Shakespeare’s play *The Merchant of Venice*. They said that Shakespeare stereotyped certain members of society in his play.

3. Generally, book banners want to safeguard the values of their communities.
They don’t see no problem with book banning. Others believes that people should have the freedom to choose their own reading material. They feel that books give insight into the social attitudes of different eras. Book banning is an emotional issue, and people will continue to debate the subject.