

# PACKET 7

**ERWC**

**PACKET 7**

**DAY 1**

# GRAMMAR

Day 1

## TASK: VOL NOTES 2

### Using Progressive Tenses

Progressive tenses are used to describe an event or action **in progress** or ongoing at a time in the past, present, or future. The emphasis is on the duration (length of time). Progressive tenses are usually used with active verbs such as “writing” and “sitting;” they are much less frequent with state-of-being verbs such as “be” and “seem.”

### Examples:

#### Past Progressive Tense

Ebert was soon writing movie reviews again after his first surgery.

(“Was writing” describes an action that was happening at a time in the past; that action was interrupted by another action or event in the past, “his first surgery.”)

#### Present Progressive Tense

Roger Ebert is sitting down to watch a movie.

(“Is sitting down” describes a present action that is occurring at the present moment.)

# GRAMMAR

## TASK: VOL NOTES 2

Day 1

### Using Verb Tenses to Express Time Relationships

The following timeline gives dates for the main events in Roger Ebert's life. Using these dates, information from "Roger Ebert: The Essential Man" by Chris Jones, and your own commentary, write a brief biography of Roger Ebert. Try to use a variety of verb tenses, including the simple present and the future. You may use the passive when appropriate.

**Example:** *Roger Ebert was born on June 18, 1942, in Urbana, Illinois. While he attended the University of Illinois from 1960-64, he worked as a reporter for the school paper.*

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## TASK: VOL

## NOTES 2

### Day 1

June 18, 1942	born in Urbana, Illinois
1960 - 1964	attends the University of Illinois; works as a reporter for the school paper, the <i>Daily Illini</i>
1967	begins writing movies reviews for the <i>Chicago Sun-Times</i>
1975	receives the first Pulitzer Prize for film criticism
1976 - 1999	Co-hosts television programs <i>Sneak Previews</i> , <i>At the Movies with Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert</i> , and <i>Siskel at the Movies</i> with Gene Siskel
1992	marries trial attorney Charlie "Chaz" Hammel-Smith
1999	Gene Siskel passes away
2000	<i>Ebert &amp; Roeper &amp; the Movies</i> begins airing with co-host Richard Roeper
2002	diagnosed with thyroid cancer
2003	returns to work after surgery on his salivary glands and aggressive radiation treatment
mid-2006	cancer returns to his jaw; his carotid artery bursts following surgery, and he almost dies
mid-2006 to 2013	is unable to eat, drink, and talk
2008 to 2013	writes an on-line journal

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## TASK: VOL

### NOTES 2

#### Day 1

Roger Ebert was born on June 18, 1942. He began writing movie reviews for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and received the first Pulitzer Prize for film criticism. In 2002, Ebert was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Now, he is not able to eat, drink, and talk. So, instead, he writes an online journal.

# **PACKET 7**

## **DAY 2**

# GRAMMAR

## TASK: VOL ACT. 4

Day 2

### Using Verb Tenses to Express Time Relationships

Fill in the blanks in this short biography of Roger Ebert with the correct basic and perfect tenses. Also note that some verbs are passive. Write the time markers. Check to make sure you have formed the verbs correctly.

Roger Ebert was (be) born on June 18, 1942, in Urbana, Illinois. While he was attending (attend) the University of Illinois from 1960-64, he worked (work) as a reporter for the school paper. He (1)\_\_\_\_\_ (begin) writing movie reviews for the Chicago Sun-Times in 1967. He (2)\_\_\_\_\_ (receive) the first Pulitzer Prize for film criticism in 1975. A year later he (3)\_\_\_\_\_ (begin) cohosting movie programs on TV with Gene Siskel. After Siskel (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (die) in 1999, he (5)\_\_\_\_\_ (co-host) Ebert & Roeper & the Movies with Richard Roeper. He (6)\_\_\_\_\_ (be) diagnosed with thyroid cancer in 2002.



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## TASK: VOL ACT. 4

Day 2

Roger Ebert was (be) born on June 18, 1942 in Urbana, Illinois. While he was attending (attend) the University of Illinois from 1960-64, he worked (work) as a reporter for the school paper. He <sup>1</sup> began (begin) writing movie reviews for the Chicago Sun-Times in 1967. He <sup>2</sup> received (receive) the first Pulitzer Prize for film criticism in 1975. A year later he <sup>3</sup> began (begin) cohosting movie programs on TV with Gene Siskel. After Siskel <sup>4</sup> died (die) in 1999, he <sup>5</sup> cohosted (co-host) Ebert & Roeper & the Movies with Richard Roeper. He <sup>6</sup> was (be) diagnosed with thyroid cancer

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**DAY 3**

# GRAMMAR

Day 3

## TASK: VOL ACT. 4 CON'T

He 1\_\_\_\_\_ (return) to work after he 2\_\_\_\_\_  
(undergo) a year of treatment. Two years later he 3\_\_\_\_\_  
(be) the first film critic to receive a star on Hollywood's Walk of  
Fame. In mid-2006 his cancer 4\_\_\_\_\_ (return). Following  
surgery, his carotid artery 5\_\_\_\_\_ (burst). Now he no  
longer 6\_\_\_\_\_ (eat), 7\_\_\_\_\_ (drink), and  
8\_\_\_\_\_ (talk), but he still 9\_\_\_\_\_ (communicate)  
with the world through an on-line journal that he  
10\_\_\_\_\_ (keep) since 2008. He 11\_\_\_\_\_ (know)  
that he 12\_\_\_\_\_ (die) eventually, but he  
13\_\_\_\_\_ (say) the journal 14\_\_\_\_\_ (save) him.

**Rhetorical Purpose:** Why do you think the writer switches time frames?

# GRAMMAR

Day 3

## TASK: VOL ACT. 4 CON'T

(in 2002.) He returned (return) to work after he had undergone (undergo) a year of treatment. (Two years later) he was (be) the first film critic to receive a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame. (In mid-2006) his cancer returned (return). Following surgery, his carotid artery burst (burst). (Now) he no longer eats (eat), drinks (drink), and talks (talk), but he still communicates (communicate) with the world through an on-line journal that he has kept (keep) (since 2008.) He knows (know) that he will die (die), but he says (say) the journal is saving (save) him.

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**DAY 4**

# GRAMMAR

## TASK: VOL ACT. 5

Day 4

### Choosing a Time Frame for a Purpose

Read the following passage from the beginning of Jones' article and then answer the questions that follow.

For the 281st time in the last ten months Roger Ebert is sitting down to watch a movie in the Lake Street Screening Room, on the sixteenth floor of what used to pass for a skyscraper in the Loop. Ebert's been coming to it for nearly thirty years, along with the rest of Chicago's increasingly venerable collection of movie critics. More than a dozen of them are here this afternoon, sitting together in the dark. Some of them look as though they plan on camping out, with their coats, blankets, lunches, and laptops spread out on the seats around them. . . .

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## TASK: VOL ACT. 5

Day 4

The lights go down. Kraus starts the movie. Subtitles run along the bottom of the screen. The movie is about a film director, Harry Caine, who has lost his sight. Caine reads and makes love by touch, and he writes and edits his films by sound. “Films have to be finished, even if you do it blindly,” someone in the movie says. It’s a quirky, complex, beautiful little film, and Ebert loves it. He radiates kid joy. Throughout the screening, he takes excited notes — references to other movies, snatches of dialogue, meditations on Almodóvar’s symbolism and his use of the color red. Ebert scribbles constantly, his pen digging into page after page, and then he tears the pages out of his notebook and drops them to the floor around him. Maybe twenty or thirty times, the sound of paper being torn from a spiral rises from the aisle seat in the last row.

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## TASK: VOL ACT. 5

Day 4

The lights come back on. Ebert stays in his chair, savoring, surrounded by his notes. It looks as though he's sitting on top of a cloud of paper. He watches the credits, lifts himself up, and kicks his notes into a small pile with his feet. He slowly bends down to pick them up and walks with Chaz back out to the elevators. They hold hands, but they don't say anything to each other. They spend a lot of time like that.

1. What is the time frame for this passage? How do you know? When did the events actually happen? What time frame would you expect?
2. Does Jones ever shift to a different time frame within this passage?
3. Which verb tenses does he use?
4. Why did Jones make this choice of time frame? What is the effect on the reader?
5. When would it be appropriate for you to do something similar in your own writing?



# GRAMMAR

## TASK: VOL ACT. 5

1. What is the time frame for this passage? How do you know? When did the events actually happen? What time frame would you expect?

*The time frame is present/future. The time marker is the phrase "For the 281st time in the last ten months." That makes it sound like it is something that is happening now. The events actually happened in the past, so I would expect Jones to use the past time frame.*

2. Does Jones ever shift to a different time frame within this passage?

*No. It stays in the present/future throughout the whole passage.*

3. Which verb tenses does he use? Give some examples.

*Present progressive (is sitting), present perfect progressive ('s been coming); simple present (are, look, plan, go down, starts).*

4. Why did Jones make this choice of time frame? What is the effect on the reader?

*It makes it seem like Jones is in the room with Ebert and in a way we are too. It makes it feel like we are watching a movie of Ebert watching a movie. That's appropriate for an article about a movie critic.*

5. When would it be appropriate for you to do something similar in your own writing?

*I could use the present/future time frame for events in the past if I wanted to make my readers feel like they are watching the events happen, but normally I would use the past time frame. That's what readers expect, so I would need a really good reason to use the present/future.*