

## In Tense

I wake up **early** in the **morning**. Every **day** it's the **same**.

I **often** feel **tired** but I **rarely** **complain**.

At **times**, I get **stressed** but I **stay** on my **game**.

I **never** give **up** because **success** is my **aim**.

I wash my **face** and brush my **teeth**.

I make the **bed** and get **dressed**.

It doesn't **matter** what the **day** brings-  
you **always** have to **do** your **best**.

Stay **true** to yourself. Don't be **fake**.

Stick **with** it. Keep your **head** up. You've **got** what it **takes**.

Today, I'm **doing okay**. Right now I'm **waiting** for the **subway**.

I'm **sitting alone**, just **relaxing** in my **zone**,  
killing **time**, making **rhymes** over **beats** on my **phone**.

I'm **drinking coffee** and **reading** my **emails**.

I'm **checking Facebook** while I'm **cleaning** my **fingernails**.

The **train** isn't **coming**. I'm **growing impatient**.

There are **tons** of people **standing** on the **platform** in the **station**.

It **still** hasn't **gotten** here. I've been **waiting** so **long**  
that I've **finished** my **coffee** and started **writing** this **song**.

There **hasn't** been any **announcement** **explaining** the **delay**.

I **haven't** decided yet whether to **leave** or to **stay**.

My **friend** has been **messaging**, **telling** me to **hurry**.

I've **texted** him three **times**, **saying** not to **worry**.

I've been **sitting** here since **twenty past nine**, which means

I've **waited** for more than **forty-five minutes**. I've nearly **lost** my **mind**!

I finally **got** up and **left**. I found the **exit** and went **outside**.

I took the **bus**; it was so **slow**; it was **such** a long **ride**.

(I **used** to have a **car**, but I **no** longer **drive**.)

I met my **friend** at a **restaurant**. We **ate** and we **talked**.

We told **stories** and **laughed**. At **noon** we paid the **bill**  
and I **walked** to a **park** that **wasn't** far **away**.



I was **listening** to **music** and **enjoying** the **day**.  
The **sun** was **shining** and the **birds** were **singing**.  
I was **feeling** mighty **fine**. I wasn't **worrying** about **anything**.  
While I was **waiting** at a **corner**, I bent **down** to tie my **shoe**.  
Someone **asked** me for **directions**. I **didn't** have a **clue**.

I'd never **been** in that **area**. I hadn't **gone** there until that **day**.  
My friend had **recently moved** and had been **living** there since **May**.  
**Before** that he'd been **staying** at his **parents'** place.  
He'd **basically** been **doing** a whole lot of **nothing**  
until his **mother** kicked him **out**.

They'll still **help** him, no **doubt**, but he'll work **harder** to **succeed**.  
He's going to stay **focused** and take **care** of his **needs**.  
It's **not** going to be **easy**. He's going to **struggle**. It'll take **time**.  
Though things won't **change** right **away**, in the **end** he'll be **fine**.  
Next **week** he's coming **over**. We're having **dinner** and watching a **movie**.  
He's **bringing** his **girlfriend**, who has a **business degree**.

**Beginning** next **month**, she'll be **working** at a **company** **downtown**.  
In the near **future**, she'll be **getting** her own **business** off the **ground**.  
**They'll** have gotten **married** by **then**. They will have been **saving** up  
**money** for several **years** when they have **children**.

At **least** that's what he **says**, and to **me** it makes **sense**,  
but every **journey** through **life** is **unpredictable** and **intense**.