How Questions- Tense Review

Spend five minutes chatting with your partner about the present, past and future, starting with personal questions with “How...?” like those below.

Fill the questions below with the verbs and subjects in brackets ( ) in the right tenses in the gaps. Your teacher will tell you which version below you should use (mixed and/ or arranged by tense).

**Mixed version**

How __________________________________________ (your son get on) at university?
How __________________________________________ (the weather be) outside now?
How __________________________________________ (the party be) last night?
How __________________________________________ (the traffic be) this morning?
How __________________________________________ (you be) since we last met?
How __________________________________________ (your summer holiday be)?
How __________________________________________ (your trip be) to New York?
How __________________________________________ (your week be) so far?
How __________________________________________ (your day be) so far?
How __________________________________________ (your visit be) so far?
How __________________________________________ (your weekend be)?
How __________________________________________ (your vacation be)?
How __________________________________________ (business be)?
How __________________________________________ (it go)?
How __________________________________________ (life be)?
How __________________________________________ (life treat) you?
How __________________________________________ (you be)?
How __________________________________________ (you do)?
How __________________________________________ (your journey be)?
How __________________________________________ (your lunch be)?
How __________________________________________ (your project go)?
How __________________________________________ (your flight be)?

Long time no see. How __________________________________________ (you be)?
You said that you were going to... How __________________________________________ (it go)?

*Use the ones in sections on the page below to help.*
Arranged by tense version

How _____________________________________________________ (you be)?
How _____________________________________________________ (life be)?
How _____________________________________________________ (business be)?
How ___________________________________________(the weather be) outside now?
How _____________________________________________________ (it go)?
How _____________________________________________________ (you do)?
How _____________________________________________________ (your project go)?
How _____________________________________________________ (your son get on) at university?
How _____________________________________________________ (life treat) you?
How _____________________________________________________ (your flight be)?
How ________________________________________________ (your weekend be)?
How _____________________________________________________ (your vacation be)?
How _____________________________________________________ (your journey be)?
How _____________________________________________________ (your trip be) to New York?
You said that you were going to… How _____________________________________________________ (it go)?
How _____________________________________________________ (the party be) last night?
How _____________________________________________________ (your lunch be)?
How _____________________________________________________ (the traffic be) this morning?
How _____________________________________________________ (your day be) so far?
How _____________________________________________________ (your week be) so far?
How _____________________________________________________ (your visit be) so far?
How _____________________________________________________ (you be) since we last met?

Long time no see. How _____________________________________________________ (you be)?

Hint 1: Similar questions are grouped together above, so you just need to find out where the tense changes.

Hint 2: The ones where the tense changes are:
How _____________________________________________________ (it go)?
How _____________________________________________________ (your flight be)?
How _____________________________________________________ (your day be) so far?

Check your answers with the answer key and/ or as a class.
Suggested answers

Present Simple small talk questions
- How are you?
- How’s life?
- How’s business?
- How’s the weather outside now?

Present Continuous small talk questions
- How’s it going?
- How are you doing?
- How’s your project going?
- How’s your son getting on at university?
- How’s life treating you?

Past Simple small talk questions
- How was your weekend?
- How was your summer holiday?
- How was your vacation?
- How was your journey?
- How was your trip to New York?
- You said that you were going to… How did it go?
- How was the party last night?
- How was your lunch?
- How was the traffic this morning?

Present Perfect small talk questions
- How has your day been so far?
- How has your week been so far?
- How has your visit been so far?
- How have you been since we last met?
- Long time no see. How have you been?

Ask about any questions which you don’t understand or don’t know how to answer.

Change partners and have similar small talk conversations, this time with no help.