TENSE SHIFT

Directions: Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose “No change is necessary.”

1. Aunt Lillian (A) had frozen four quarts of her homegrown strawberries, but she (B) lost them after the hurricane (C) was knocking out power for eight days.

   A. froze
   B. had lost
   C. knocked
   D. No change is necessary.

2. Because Sammy had been eating all of the chocolate mint ice cream before she got home, Roxanne whacked him over the head.

   A. ate
   B. was eating
   C. had eaten
   D. No change is necessary.

3. Carlos (A) pawed at his hair and (B) shook his head, but he (C) cannot dislodge the giant spider tangled in the curls.

   A. was pawing
   B. was shaking
   C. could not
   D. No change is necessary.
4. Grandpa planted a backyard garden, hoping that it **was helping** with the high cost of food.

A. will help  
B. would help  
C. helped  
D. No change is necessary.

5. When Gretchen **was** a freshman, she **wanted** to major in biology, but after her first rat dissection, she **couldn’t** change her major to English fast enough.

A. had been  
B. was wanting  
C. cannot  
D. No change is necessary.

6. Everyone **is sleeping** soundly when Brendan dropped the glass pitcher of lemonade on the stone tiles of the kitchen floor.

A. had been sleeping  
B. slept  
C. would sleep  
D. No change is necessary.

7. Ancient Egyptians **spent** their entire lives preparing for their death and burial. Today, however, people **are thinking** that funerals **are** too morbid to plan far in advance.

A. were spending  
B. think  
C. would be  
D. No change is necessary.
8. When Felicia saw the turtle trying to cross the busy road, she leaped out of her car and **had carried** the reptile to safety at the other side.

A. was carrying  
B. carried  
C. will carry  
D. No change is necessary.

9. In battle, George Washington **believed** that he was invincible. He **rode** a conspicuous white horse that made him easy to spot, yet no bullet **hit** him, proving his invulnerability.

A. had believed  
B. was riding  
C. hit  
D. No change is necessary.

10. We **would have** bite marks on our ankles and scratches on our thighs ever since adopting Nelson, our feisty kitten.

A. had  
B. have  
C. will have  
D. No change is necessary.