

NARRATIVE TENSES

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Practice | 20-30 minutes

Build a clear story with events, background and earlier information.

1. GET STARTED

Take turns asking and answering. Give details and ask a follow-up. You can invent personal details.

A: You **looked** surprised when I **saw** you at the station.

B: I **was waiting** for my sister when an old friend **walked** past.

A: What a coincidence! **Had you seen** each other recently?

2. STORIES FROM LIFE

1. When **did** something unexpected last **happen** to you?
2. Where **were** you **going**, and who **was** with you?
3. What **was happening** around you before the main event?
4. What **had you planned** to do before things changed?
5. How **did you react** when you realised what had happened?
6. What **did you do** next, and how **did** the story **end**?

Keep talking: And then? / What was happening at the time? / Had that happened before?

3. BUILD ANOTHER STORY

Choose one prompt. Tell the story, then use the other prompts if you have time.

7. When **did** you last **meet** someone by chance? What **were you doing**?
8. What **happened** on an outing that went wrong? What **had you arranged**?
9. **Did** someone once **help** you unexpectedly? What **had gone** wrong?
10. When **did** you last **find** something you **had lost**? Where was it?

4. A STORY WITH A SURPRISE

Invent a story beginning: I was waiting outside when I heard my name.

Explain who called, what had happened earlier and what you did next.

Tell it to your partner, who asks two questions. Swap roles.

Example: I **was waiting** for a bus. I **had missed** the earlier one. Then Jo **arrived**.

Answer help: At the time, I was ... / Earlier, I had ... / Suddenly, ... / In the end, ...

Remember: Past simple: events; past continuous: background; past perfect: earlier events.