

NARRATIVE TENSES

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

Complete questions, write detailed answers and form questions of your own.

EXAMPLE

Question: What **were** you **doing** when you found the old photo?

Answer: I **was sorting** a drawer. I'd **forgotten** that the photo was there.

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

A. COMPLETE AND ANSWER

Complete the questions using the grammar cues. Write full answers with a relevant detail.

1. What _____ you _____ when something surprising happened? (do)

Answer: _____

2. What _____ you _____ next? (do; main event)

Answer: _____

3. _____ you _____ anything like it before? (see; earlier)

Answer: _____

4. How _____ the story _____? (end; main event)

Answer: _____

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

Put the words in order. Write each question. Start with a capital letter and add ?.

1. to / talking / who / you / it / were / when / happened

2. arrived / happened / had / what / before / you

3. to / react / did / surprise / you / the / how

Try it: Ask your partner the questions in B. Ask one follow-up of your own.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

A. COMPLETE AND ANSWER

Target forms and model answers are shown below. Personal answers will vary.

1. were / doing - What were you doing when something surprising happened?

Sample answer: I was walking home when I saw a fox in the middle of the street.

2. did / do - What did you do next?

Sample answer: I stopped and waited until the fox had crossed the road.

3. Had / seen - Had you seen anything like it before?

Sample answer: No, I hadn't seen a fox in town before, so I was surprised.

4. did / end - How did the story end?

Sample answer: The fox disappeared into a garden, and I carried on walking.

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

1. Who were you talking to when it happened?

2. What had happened before you arrived?

3. How did you react to the surprise?

TEACHER NOTES

The four A answers form one model story. Students may use one real or invented story of their own.

Accept correct full forms and contractions. Check that answers match the question.

Encourage one relevant detail; check word order, capitals and question marks in B.