

ADVANCED NARRATIVE TENSES

B2 | 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 the screen froze?

Answer: I **was giving** a talk. Luckily, I'd **saved** a copy of the slides online.

Remember: Use main events, background, earlier results and earlier duration to manage a story timeline.

A. COMPLETE AND ANSWER

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

1. What _____ you _____ when a plan went wrong? (do; background)

Answer: _____

2. What _____ you _____ before that moment? (check; earlier result)

Answer: _____

3. How long _____ you _____ for it? (prepare; earlier activity)

Answer: _____

4. How _____ you _____ the problem? (solve; main event)

Answer: _____

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

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

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

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

3. you / for / stopped / long / travelling / when / been / had / you

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 a plan went wrong?

Sample answer: I was driving to an interview when the road was closed.

2. had / checked - What had you checked before that moment?

Sample answer: I'd checked the address, but I hadn't checked for road closures.

3. had / been preparing - How long had you been preparing for it?

Sample answer: I'd been preparing for the interview for several days, so I was anxious.

4. did / solve - How did you solve the problem?

Sample answer: I called the office, explained the delay and found a different route.

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

1. Who were you speaking to when it happened?

2. What had happened before you arrived?

3. Had you been travelling for long when you stopped?

TEACHER NOTES

The model answers form one story. Avoid past perfect for each later action; keep the timeline clear.

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.