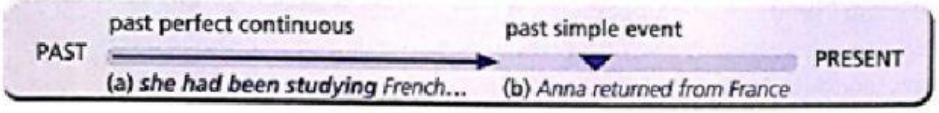
Narrative Tenses - Practice

USE

Use past perfect continuous

- in a past tense narrative, to describe a continuing action in a period of time before something else happened.
  *Anna **returned** from France, where she **had been studying** French.*
- to explain a past situation, by describing the events happening before.
  *Both boys **were** wet and muddy. They **had been playing football** in the rain.*



Read the sentences about two mountain climbers. Then complete the sentence with the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous form of the verb in brackets.

a The two climbers stopped to rest. They (climb) ___had been climbing___ for hours and were exhausted. Things were not looking good.

b They were very cold, because it (snow) _____ heavily since mid-morning, and one of them (hurt) _____ his ankle.

c They (look) _____ for shelter for the past two hours, because they realized that the weather was going to get worse.

d They (already phone) _____ the rescue centre for help.

e They (also leave) _____ details of their planned route at the village where they stayed the night.

f They were experienced climbers and they (prepare) _____ carefully for their trip. They knew there was a cave halfway up the mountain.

g They spent a long time searching for the cave before they realized that they (head) _____ in the wrong direction. Then the snow stopped, and they could see the dark entrance of the cave nearby.

h Luckily they (bring) _____ warm clothes and plenty of food with them, and they waited safely in the cave.

2 Complete the sentence with the past simple or past perfect simple form of the verb in brackets.

a When I (try) ___tried___ to use my laptop, I realized the battery (run) _____ down.

b I (turn) _____ the computer off, but forgot that I (not save) _____ my work.

c I only remembered I (not pay) _____ the bill when my Internet connection (stop) _____ working.

d When I (receive) _____ the e-mail, I couldn't understand who (send) _____ it.

e When I (check) _____ the instructions, I understood what I (do) _____

f I knew I (receive) _____ a virus when I (run) _____ the anti-virus program.

g As soon as I (download) _____ the document, I knew I (make) _____ a mistake.

h I could see what (go) _____ wrong as soon as I (look) _____ inside the printer.

i I knew I (press) _____ the wrong key when nothing (happen) _____

j When the screen (go) _____ blank, I couldn't understand how it (happen) _____

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