



**English  
with  
Alona**

# Narrative (past) tenses

## Grammar Presentation

Watch the video and do the tasks below.

<https://youtu.be/iEGM2gKYk6o>

## Grammar Practice - Task 1

Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 Lynne **was singing**/**had sung** as she was cleaning the windows.
- 2 Mr Todd **was teaching**/**had been teaching** for thirty years when he retired.
- 3 I phoned Jack because I **wanted**/**had wanted** to ask him a question.
- 4 They **had walked**/**had been walking** for hours when they stopped for a rest.
- 5 The shop **had been selling**/**had sold** the table by the time I got there.
- 6 Joe was happy. He **was winning**/**had won** first prize in the competition.

- 7 It **was raining/had rained** while they were playing the football match.
- 8 Rob **was opening/opened** the box and looked inside.
- 9 Eve was delighted to hear that she **was getting/had got** the job.
- 10 People **used to work/were working** very long hours in those days.
- 11 I was running when I **slipped/was slipping** on the ice.
- 12 They **were already buying/had already bought** the tickets when they went to the concert.
- 13 Carol **had broken/was breaking** her arm, so she couldn't write for six weeks.
- 14 We **had been staying/stayed** in a hotel by the sea last summer.
- 15 Elvis Presley **sang/had sung** lots of hit songs.
- 16 I **opened/was opening** the door and stepped outside.
- 17 They **had stood/were standing** outside when the results were announced.
- 18 Alexander Graham Bell **had invented/invented** the telephone.
- 19 She broke the glass while she **had washed/was washing** it.

## Grammar Practice - Task 2

**Complete the sentences using any appropriate past forms.**

- 1 While Joanne ... .. her hair, Carl was cleaning the house.
- 2 I have no idea where I ..... my wallet.
- 3 He ..... his leg when he fell off his skateboard.
- 4 We ..... in the classroom for ten minutes before the teacher arrived.
- 5 She ..... to the theatre last night.
- 6 My tooth ..... for a week before I went to the dentist's.
- 7 She cried when she ..... her driving test.
- 8 What ..... when the alarm went off?
- 9 They got into the car and ..... away.
- 10 I could tell she ..... the competition because she couldn't stop smiling.
- 11 We ..... along the beach when we heard a cry for help.
- 12 Tom ..... the piano for years before he became famous.

*If the task was useful, please, subscribe to my YouTube channel.*

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