

Narrative Tenses – Practice 1

Circle the correct option.

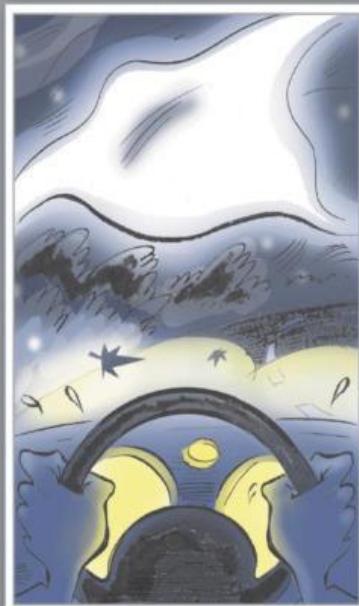
1. Did you read / Had you been reading the whole book?
2. What had you done / did you do when you heard the news?
3. We were walking / had been walking for several hours when we reached / had reached a tiny village in the mountains.
4. It was the most amazing experience I was ever having / had ever had.
5. It's OK. I didn't sleep / wasn't sleeping when you had been coming / came in.
6. Nathalie looked / was looking at her watch, had jumped / jumped into her car and quickly drove / had quickly driven away.
7. I didn't think / wasn't thinking that the plot was very convincing. Were / Did you?

Choose the correct option to complete the text below.

The strange story of a tree in the night...

Do you believe in ghosts? I ¹thought / 've been thinking about this question a lot recently. I ²'d never met / 've never met a ghost, but a friend of mine has. And her story has made me think again about my answer to the question.

It ³had been / was a dark, foggy night – as it often is, of course, in all good ghost stories – and my friend ⁴was driving / drove home along a quiet country road. Suddenly, a large white shadow ⁵was flying / flew across the road in front of her car. My friend slowed down and ⁶had been looking / looked behind her in her mirror. But there was nothing there. The strange white shadow ⁷had disappeared / was disappearing. She drove on a bit further, when the shadow ⁸was appearing / appeared again. This time it flew straight at her windscreen and blocked her view. She stopped the car. And at that very moment she heard a loud crashing sound just in front of her. She looked up. There, in the middle of the road, ⁹was being / was a huge tree. It ¹⁰had been falling / had fallen down into the middle of the road. My friend was shaking with shock. Had the strange white shadow ¹¹been trying / tried to warn her of the danger? ¹²It had saved / Had it saved her life?



Complete the story using past forms. Sometimes more than one form is possible.

It was 8 o'clock and at last I was ready. I ¹_____ (spend) hours deciding what to wear. This was a special occasion and I ²_____ (want) to look my best. I ³_____ (walk) to the bus stop when a friend ⁴_____ (pass) me in his car. He ⁵_____ (drive) into town. He ⁶_____ (offer) to give me a lift. We ⁷_____ (stop) the car opposite the restaurant. I could see the people inside. They ⁸_____ (already / start) eating. As I waited on the pavement, a huge lorry ⁹_____ (drive) straight through a big puddle of water. My dress was covered in mud. I ¹⁰_____ (look) a real mess. All the customers in the restaurant ¹¹_____ (laugh) at me. I ¹²_____ (never / feel) so embarrassed in my whole life.