

Narrative tenses

Read the story 'The most embarrassing moment of my life by Richard Sussex' and choose the correct option to complete the text.

Part 1

When I was about nine years old, I used to go to the cinema every Saturday morning – in those days it was very popular. After the film _____, I would go to a toy shop and look at model planes and trains, and sometimes I bought them with the pocket money that I had been carefully saving. One day after the film, I went to a big department store to have a look at the model planes they had. I didn't buy anything, but as I was leaving, a very large man grabbed my arm quite violently and accused me of shoplifting.

The man said that he was a store detective. As I _____ on the toys, I hadn't noticed that he _____ me. He made me empty my pockets and he _____ through my coat, searching for stolen goods, even though I told him very clearly that I had only been looking. Of course, he didn't find anything, but by this time several people _____ to see what was happening. I felt very embarrassed and humiliated that so many people were looking at me, and I was very glad to leave the shop when it was all over.

Complete Part 2 of the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets: past simple, past continuous, past perfect, or past perfect continuous.

An hour or so later, when I ¹ was having (have) lunch with my family at home, my father ² _____ (ask) me about the film. I then ³ _____ (mention) that I ⁴ _____ (look) at toys in a department store when a store detective ⁵ _____ (accuse) me of shoplifting and ⁶ _____ (search) me in the middle of the shop. My father ⁷ _____ (make) me repeat what I ⁸ _____ (say), and then immediately ⁹ _____ (jump up) from the table.

Without either of us having finished our lunch, he ¹⁰ _____ (make) me get into the car. I ¹¹ _____ (never see) my father look so angry! He ¹² _____ (drive) quickly to the store, ¹³ _____ (park) outside, and took me to where the incident ¹⁴ _____ (take place). He then demanded to see the manager and the store detective.

When the manager ¹⁵ _____ (come), my father ¹⁶ _____ (start) shouting at him and he told him that I ¹⁷ _____ (never steal) anything in my life. He ¹⁸ _____ (make) the manager and store detective apologize to me for having accused me of shoplifting and for embarrassing me. But the thing is, I ¹⁹ _____ (find) this scene even more embarrassing than the first one, especially as I could see that a lot of customers ²⁰ _____ (stop) and ²¹ _____ (watch) us!