

# NARRATIVE TENSES EXAMPLE



Last night, I **was walking**<sup>1</sup> home when I **saw** a car running very fast towards a red light. I **looked** at the driver and I could see that he **was talking**<sup>2</sup> on his phone. He **didn't stop** at the traffic light, and another car **crashed** into him. When the police **arrived**, they **asked** me what **had happened** and I **told** them that the driver **hadn't seen** the traffic light because he **was using**<sup>2</sup> his phone.

## NARRATIVE TENSES

Use **PAST SIMPLE** to describe the main events of a story in chronological order.

Use **PAST CONTINUOUS** to <sup>1</sup>set the scene and to <sup>2</sup>describe actions or situations that were in progress (not finished) at a certain point in the story.

Use **PAST PERFECT** to describe events that happened earlier in the past.

## OTHER EXAMPLES:

While **I was sitting** in my garden, **I saw** my cat running in the grass, **he had just caught** a mouse.

I WAS SITTING IN MY GARDEN  
("long action")

I SAW MY CAT  
(action that starts  
and finishes during  
the longer one)

THE CAT HAD  
CAUGHT A MOUSE  
(the action started  
before I saw it).

## LINK TO ONLINE ACTIVITY – MIXED TENSES

[Past simple, past continuous, past perfect - Test-English](#)

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

[Present simple or present continuous - Page 3 of 3 - Test-English](#)

[Have to, don't have to, must, mustn't - Test-English](#)

[Have to, must, should – obligation, prohibition, necessity, advice - Test-English](#)

<https://en.islcollective.com/english-esl-video-lessons/grammar-practice/general-grammar-practice/verb-tenses/friends-joeys-doesnt-share-food/170151>