

Grammar

Narrative tenses

- 1 Choose the correct option to complete the paragraph about a summer in Finland.

A couple of years ago, after I ¹*finished / was finishing* school, I ²*spent / had spent* the summer on a farm in Finland. I ³*looked / had been looking* for a cheap way to get there ever since I ⁴*found out / was finding* out you can see the Aurora Borealis (the lights in the sky over the Arctic circle) from there. I ⁵*ended up / was ending up* working on an organic farm in exchange for free accommodation. While there, I ⁶*made / had been making* friends with people who ⁷*went / had been* to all sorts of places with the same scheme. After I ⁸*was working / had been working* for a month, I ⁹*took / had been taking* a few days off and ¹⁰*travelled / was travelling* to the north to see the Aurora Borealis. I ¹¹*was hoping / had hoped* for good weather and clear nights – you can't see the lights in the rain – and I was lucky. The Aurora was spectacular – the month's work ¹²*was being / had been* worth it.

- 2 Read the sentences and the endings. Which option (a–c) is not correct?

- 1 While I was cycling along the path, ...
 - a ... my tyre got a puncture.
 - b ... I had fallen off my bike.
 - c ... mosquitoes were flying all around me.
- 2 Five minutes after leaving home, we realized ...
 - a ... we didn't lock the door.
 - b ... we'd left our bags behind.
 - c ... we had been driving in the wrong direction.
- 3 When I looked through my holiday photos, I thought about the ...
 - a ... new friends I made.
 - b ... places I was visiting.
 - c ... things I had seen.
- 4 We'd been following the path for hours ...
 - a ... and we were getting tired.
 - b ... when suddenly it had disappeared.
 - c ... because we'd lost the phone signal.
- 5 The station was really busy because ...
 - a ... people were going home from work.
 - b ... it was the New Year break.
 - c ... the summer holidays just began.

The Aurora Borealis



6 We arrived at the beach as ...

- a ... the sun was going down.
- b ... it started raining.
- c ... everyone there had left.

3 Change the narrative tense in the incorrect options in Exercise 2 so that the sentence is correct.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

4 Complete the story about a picnic with the correct form of the verb in brackets. Sometimes more than one form is possible.

This happened when I ¹ _____ (work) in Azerbaijan a few years ago. I ² _____ (be) in the capital, Baku, for a couple of months when I had the opportunity to get out of the city on a day trip. Four of us ³ _____ (set off) one beautiful spring morning in a colleague's car. We ⁴ _____ (go) to Lahic, a village in the mountains to the north. We ⁵ _____ (drive) along for about an hour when suddenly, the car broke down. Luckily, Tural, the driver ⁶ _____ (manage to) fix the problem. But by the time we made it to Lahic, we ⁷ _____ (stop) a half a dozen times. By then it was lunchtime and we were feeling hungry. We saw a small table in a grassy area and thought, 'Aha, a café.' We sat down, and almost immediately a young boy ⁸ _____ (bring) us plates of salad and snacks. As we were eating, we ⁹ _____ (notice) several other tables near us. Small groups of men ¹⁰ _____ (smile and wave) at us while they had their lunch. When we'd finished, we tried to pay, but one of the men came over to explain that they ¹¹ _____ (be) telephone workers on an excursion and no payment was necessary – they ¹² _____ (share) their picnic with us!

5 Match the past forms (1–4) with the explanations (a–d) and the example sentences (A–D).

- 1 past simple _____
- 2 past continuous _____
- 3 past perfect simple _____
- 4 past perfect continuous _____

- a events that happened before the main event
- b main events
- c events in progress before the main event; use to emphasize continuation
- d events in progress at a point in the past

- A We were working on a farm before we left for Buenos Aires.
- B It had been raining and the air was fresh and the earth smelled good.
- C Suddenly the door slammed shut.
- D The man had stopped walking and seemed to be thinking.

Pronunciation

Pronouncing groups of two or more consonants

1 **3.1** Underline the letters that make groups of consonants in the words in bold. Then listen to how they are pronounced.

- 1 We were **absolutely** amazed by the view.
- 2 I reacted a bit too **angrily** at the change in plans.
- 3 It was **completely** dark when we arrived home.
- 4 The children ran **excitedly** into the sea.
- 5 The shop was **incredibly** difficult to find.
- 6 I felt **strangely** sad to leave everyone.

2 **3.1** Listen and repeat the sentences in Exercise 1.