

Narrative Tenses - Practice

USE

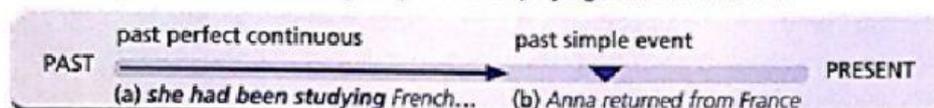
Use past perfect continuous

- in a past tense narrative, to describe a continuing action in a period of time before something else happened.

Anna returned from France, where she had been studying French.

- to explain a past situation, by describing the events happening before.

Both boys were wet and muddy. They had been playing football in the rain.



Read the sentences about two mountain climbers. Then complete the sentence with the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous form of the verb in brackets.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>a The two climbers stopped to rest. They (climb) <u>had been climbing</u> for hours and were exhausted. Things were not looking good.</p> <p>b They were very cold, because it (snow) _____ heavily since mid-morning, and one of them (hurt) _____ his ankle.</p> <p>c They (look) _____ for shelter for the past two hours, because they realized that the weather was going to get worse.</p> <p>d They (already phone) _____ the rescue centre for help.</p> <p>e They (also leave) _____ details of their planned route at the village where they stayed the night.</p> | <p>f They were experienced climbers and they (prepare) _____ carefully for their trip. They knew there was a cave halfway up the mountain.</p> <p>g They spent a long time searching for the cave before they realized that they (head) _____ in the wrong direction. Then the snow stopped, and they could see the dark entrance of the cave nearby.</p> <p>h Luckily they (bring) _____ warm clothes and plenty of food with them, and they waited safely in the cave.</p> |
|---|--|

2 Complete the sentence with the past simple or past perfect simple form of the verb in brackets.

- a When I (try) tried to use my laptop, I realized the battery (run) _____ down.
- b I (turn) _____ the computer off, but forgot that I (not save) _____ my work.
- c I only remembered I (not pay) _____ the bill when my Internet connection (stop) _____ working.
- d When I (receive) _____ the e-mail, I couldn't understand who (send) _____ it.
- e When I (check) _____ the instructions, I understood what I (do) _____
- f I knew I (receive) _____ a virus when I (run) _____ the anti-virus program.
- g As soon as I (download) _____ the document, I knew I (make) _____ a mistake.
- h I could see what (go) _____ wrong as soon as I (look) _____ inside the printer.
- i I knew I (press) _____ the wrong key when nothing (happen) _____
- j When the screen (go) _____ blank, I couldn't understand how it (happen) _____