

Narrative Tenses

Complete the gaps with the correct form of the verb. Use short forms where possible, hadn't, wasn't etc.

Activity. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense: past simple, past continuous, past perfect or past perfect continuous.



1. I (not speak) English since my college years, so I (feel) a bit out of practice when my boss (ask) me to give a presentation to a group of potential clients. However nervous I was, I (can not) say 'no', especially that I (wriggle) out of giving presentations in English at least twice before.
2. When I (return) to my house I (see) at once that someone (break) in because everything in the house (be) in a mess. Probably they (just/leave). Then, I (remember) what I (see) on my way home. I (walk) down Primrose Road, when a car (speed) past. I (manage) to notice that the driver (wear) a mask.
3. I (think) my train (leave) at 10.20, and I (be) very disappointed when I (arrive) at the station at 10.05 and (find) out that my train (just/leave). It (turn) out that the train timetable (be) changed.
4. One day, I (see) her through the window of a cafe. She (sit) with two other women. They (laugh) continually. I (can not) get over the feeling that they (talk) about me. I (be) surprised; I (know) that I (become) the butt of my wife's jokes.
5. It all (happen) in the 10th grade. Sarah (be) my girlfriend. We (go) out since the 7th grade. I (think) we really (love) each other. Then, one day she (tell) me she (decide) to break up with me. When I (ask) her 'why', she told me that she (fancy) one of my best friends. She also (say) that they (go) out for two weeks. I (be) really furious with them - and myself for being so stupid.
6. It was one of these beautiful, sunny mornings. I (have) breakfast in my favourite cafe when I (open) *The Telegraph* and nearly (faint). On the front page, there was a big photo of my husband kissing his secretary. I (read) the story and (find) out that my dear husband (have) an affair for over a year.



glossary: to wriggle out of something - to avoid doing something that you don't want to do
the butt of sb's jokes - a person who is joked about or laughed at