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)t 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.

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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

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LIVEWORKSHEETS