

Unit 2: Tell me a story

Narrative tenses

A narrative describes past events. We often use the past simple, the past continuous and the past perfect in a narrative.

- **Past Simple**

We use the past simple to describe the main events in a narrative. These are completed actions in the past.

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Short Answers
S + Verb + Complement Remember that the verbs in the past simple are regular or irregular . Regular verbs add –ed /-d and Irregular verbs change.	S + didn't + Verb + Comp Remember that after didn't the verb should go in the infinitive form.	Wh – q. + did + S + Verb + Comp? Remember that the word order change in the interrogative form and that the verb goes in the infinitive form.	Yes, S did No, S didn't
Mike opened the door and saw a package on the floor.	Mike didn't open the door and didn't see a package on the floor.	What did Mike open ?	Yes, he did. No, he didn't.

- **Past Continuous**

We use the past continuous to describe the background events in a narrative.

*One autumn afternoon, I **was sitting** in the kitchen.*

We also use the past continuous to describe an action that was in progress when a completed action happened.

*She **was having** breakfast when someone knocked the door.*

We often use when and while to connect past events.

*I **was walking** along the beach when I found a wallet.*

*While they **were waiting** for the bus, it started to rain.*

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Short answers
Subject + was/were + Verb+ing + complement	Subject + was/were + not + Verb+ing + comp. You can use the short forms wasn't / weren't	Wh- q. + was/were + Subject + verb+ing + complement ?	Yes, S was/were No, S wasn't/weren't

- **Past Perfect**

We use the past perfect to describe an action that happened **before** another action in the past.

*I called James at his office, but he **had already gone** home.*

They decided to go for a drive in Paul's new car. He **had bought** it only two days before.

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative	Short Answers
Subject + had + verb in the past participle + complement	Subject + had + not + verb in the past participle + complement You can use the short form hadn't.	Wh- q. + had + subject + verb in the past participle + comp.?	Yes, S had No, S hadn't

List of Irregular Verbs

Base form - past simple - past participle

abide	abode	abode	draw	drew	drawn
arise	arose	arisen	dream	dreamt	dreamt
awake	awoke	awoken	drink	drank	drunk
be	was/were	been	drive	drove	driven
bear	bore	born	dwell	dwelt	dwelt
beat	beat	beaten	eat	ate	eaten
beget	begot	begotten	fall	fell	fallen
begin	began	begun	feed	fed	fed
bend	bent	bent	feel	felt	felt
bereave	bereft	bereft	fight	fought	fought
beseech	besought	besought	find	found	found
bespeak	bespoke	bespoken	flee	fled	fled
bestride	bestrode	bestrided	fly	flew	flown
bet	bet	bet	forbid	forbad(e)	forbidden
bid	bade/bid	bidden/bid	forecast	forecast	forecast
bind	bound	bound	forget	forgot	forgotten
bite	bit	bitten	forsake	forsook	forsaken
bleed	bled	bled	freeze	froze	frozen
blow	blew	blown	get	got	got
break	broke	broken	give	gave	given
breed	bred	bred	go	went	gone
bring	brought	brought	grind	ground	ground
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast	grow	grew	grown
build	built	built	hang	hung	hung
burn	burnt	burnt	have	had	had
burst	burst	burst	hear	heard	heard
buy	bought	bought	hide	hid	hidden
can	could		hit	hit	hit
cast	cast	cast	hold	held	held
catch	caught	caught	hurt	hurt	hurt
choose	chose	chosen	keep	kept	kept
cling	clung	clung	kneel	knelt	knelt
come	came	come	know	knew	known
cost	cost	cost	lay	laid	laid
creep	crept	crept	lead	led	led
cut	cut	cut	lean	leant	leant
deal	dealt	dealt	leap	leapt	leapt
dig	dug	dug	learn	learnt	learnt
do	did	done	leave	left	left

Activities

1. Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- a. While Tina cycled / was cycling to work, she was dropping / dropped her purse.
- b. When I closed the door, I was realizing / realized that I left / had left my keys inside the house.
- c. We watched / were watching a film when we were hearing / heard a strange noise outside.
- d. When John had got / got home, we told him what had happened / was happening earlier that afternoon.
- e. When they were arriving / arrived, the concert already began / had already begun.
- f. It was a hot summer's day. We sat / were sitting in the garden and the sun was shining / shone.
- g. When the film was ending / ended, the children went / were going straight to bed.

2. Complete the sentences with the correct past tense of the verb in brackets.

- a. I (take) my umbrella with me because I (see) the weather forecast earlier.
- b. She (read) the whole book while she (wait) for me.
- c. While Maria (make) the dinner, David (take out) the rubbish.
- d. I (call) the police straightaway when I (see) the broken window.
- e. She (start) laughing when she (see) his new hat.
- f. I (not want) to see that film because I (see) it twice before.
- g. Anna (live) in San Francisco when she (finish) her first novel.

-ed and -ing adjectives

Remember!

We use adjectives ending in **-ed** to describe how people feel.

*She's very **excited** about her upcoming trip to Australia.*

We use adjectives ending in **-ing** to describe the thing, situation, place or person that makes us feel that way.

*Her upcoming trip to Australia is very **exciting**!*

Activities

1. Match the pair of adjectives with the pictures 1-10.

Depressed/depressing – excited/exciting – amazed/amazing –
amused/amusing – disappointed/disappointing – embarrassed/embarassing
– fascinated/fascinating – annoyed/annoying – terrified/terrifying –
shocked/shocking



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

2. Complete the sentences 1-10 with adjectives from the previous exercise.

1. I'm really scared of spiders. I find them !
2. My brother always gets home late for dinner, and we all have to wait. It makes me really
3. Jamie was with his exam result – he was hoping to get 80% but he only got 50%.
4. I'm watching a really football match – the score's 5-5!
5. Sue thought the book about Japanese paintings was
She's really into art.
6. I lost my job, then my girlfriend left me and I have no friends. I'm feeling,
7. The people who saw the terrible accident were all
8. I fell off my chair in the job interview. My face went bright red; I was so!
9. I was that my boyfriend remembered my mum's birthday because he always forgets important days.
10. Everyone in the cinema was laughing, but I didn't find the film very