

## 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 <b>regular</b> or <b>irregular</b> . 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 <b>opened</b> the door and <b>saw</b> a package on the floor.	Mike <b>didn't open</b> the door and <b>didn't see</b> a package on the floor.	What <b>did</b> Mike <b>open</b> ?	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
arise	arose	arisen
awake	awoke	awoken
be	was/were	been
bear	bore	born
beat	beat	beaten
beget	begot	begotten
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
bereave	bereft	bereft
beseech	besought	besought
bespeak	bespoke	bespoken
bestride	bestrode	bestrided
bet	bet	bet
bid	bade/bid	bidden/bid
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
build	built	built
burn	burnt	burnt
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought
can	could	
cast	cast	cast
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
cling	clung	clung
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamt	dreamt
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
dwell	dwelt	dwelt
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
flee	fled	fled
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbad(e)	forbidden
forecast	forecast	forecast
forget	forgot	forgotten
forsake	forsook	forsaken
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	got
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown
hang	hung	hung
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	kneit	knelt
know	knew	known
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
lean	leant	leant
leap	leapt	leapt
learn	learnt	learnt
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/embarrassing  
– fascinated/fascinating – annoyed/annoying – terrified/terrifying –  
shocked/shocking



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 .....  
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