

1 GRAMMAR Narrative tenses

a Underline the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 By the time we *were getting* / *had got* / *got* to the park, it *had started* / *started* / *was starting* snowing heavily so we *were making* / *made* / *had made* a snowman.
- 2 While he *cleaned* / *had cleaned* / *was cleaning* the window above the door, he *had fallen* / *fell* / *was falling* off the chair and *broke* / *was breaking* / *had broken* his leg.
- 3 By the time it *stopped* / *had stopped* / *was stopping* raining, it *was* / *was being* / *had been* too late to go to the beach.
- 4 When the two police officers *were ringing* / *rang* / *had rung* my doorbell, I *was having* / *had* / *had had* dinner.
- 5 Barbara *was meeting* / *met* / *had met* him in 2010 while she *was working* / *worked* / *had worked* in Berlin.
- 6 When I *was seeing* / *had seen* / *saw* Mario yesterday, he *looked* / *was looking* / *had looked* sad because his pet rabbit *escaped* / *had escaped* / *was escaping* the day before.
- 7 They *talked* / *were talking* / *had talked* about the accident when the ambulance *had arrived* / *was arriving* / *arrived*.

b Complete the sentences with the past simple, the past continuous or the past perfect forms of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 He met (meet) his girlfriend while they _____ (study) together at Oxford University.
- 2 We _____ (leave) Barcelona on Monday morning and by Wednesday evening we _____ (cycle) 275 kilometres.
- 3 By the time the police _____ (arrive), the bank robbers _____ (escape) in their car.
- 4 This morning she _____ (ride) her bike around the lake and _____ (take) photos of the birds.
- 5 She _____ (hear) the fireworks while she _____ (watch) a film on TV.
- 6 The car _____ (crash) into the tree while they _____ (cross) the road.
- 7 The restaurant _____ (close) by the time we _____ (get) there.
- 8 Ibrahim _____ (call) me while he _____ (wait) for his flight.