

Narrative tenses

Read the story below and choose the correct tense (a, b or c) for each gap:

Sister Jones (1) _____ the ward in B block for over 15 years. She (2) _____ a life of her own, her work was all she cared about. But now, all that was going to change. Who (3) _____ this new doctor anyway? Probably fresh out of medical school with no idea of how to run a hospital ward. What right had he got to turn up now and interfere with her work?

She (4) _____ him the day before. As she (5) _____ through the hospital grounds he (6) _____ her down. There were plenty of 'Go slow' signs everywhere and besides, almost everyone who worked at the hospital (7) _____ she walked through the grounds at the same time every day. 'Are you alright?' he asked, jumping out of his car. 'I (8) _____ where I was going. I'm terribly sorry.'

'That's alright, Mr...', she paused, politely.

'Doctor - Doctor Trent. I've just arrived. I'm taking over B Block,' he said.

Sister Jones stiffened. 'B block?' she echoed.

'Look. Let me give you a lift to the nurses home. It's the least I can do,' he insisted.

They (9) _____ in silence. When they arrived, she (10) _____ him in for tea. Doctor Trent explained how he (11) _____ in psychiatric work and when he had finished his studies, he (12) _____ for this post. Although he hadn't expected to get the job, he had. He told her all about the changes he intended to make.

'For instance,' he said, 'the sister on the ward has been there for far too long. Tomorrow, when I begin, I intend to move her to another ward.'

Sister Jones flushed in anger.

The day had arrived. Sister Jones sat in her office. She was going to be moved, from this, her home for so many years. She could not allow this to happen. Her mind (13) _____ to work. Nobody knew he was coming except her. There was only one thing to do.

'Nurse,' she called, 'a new patient is expected this morning, a Mr Trent. When he arrives, bring him straight to my office.' She looked down at the empty report paper in her hand. 'It says here he is paranoid and very confused, he thinks he's a doctor. He will need a strong sedative.'

Sister Jones (14) _____ to the cupboard and took a syringe and filled it with a pale green liquid. She then took the report paper and while she (15) _____ a written report on Mr Trent she said to herself, 'The ward is full of confused men, all claiming they are doctors. No one is ever going to take my ward away from me. No one.'

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|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) | a) ran | b) was running | c) had been running |
| 2) | a) didn't have | b) wasn't having | c) hadn't been having |
| 3) | a) was | b) was being | c) had been |
| 4) | a) met | b) was meeting | c) had met |
| 5) | a) walking | b) was walking | c) had been walking |
| 6) | a) almost knocked | b) was almost knocking | c) had almost knocked |
| 7) | a) knew | b) was knowing | c) had known |
| 8) | a) didn't look | b) wasn't looking | c) hadn't looked |
| 9) | a) drove | b) were driving | c) had driven |
| 10) | a) invited | b) was inviting | c) had invited |
| 11) | a) was always
interested | b) was always
being interested | c) had always
been interested |
| 12) | a) applied | b) was applying | c) had applied |
| 13) | a) began | b) was beginning | c) had begun |
| 14) | a) went | b) was going | c) had gone |
| 15) | a) prepared | b) was preparing | c) had prepared |