

The past – narrative tenses

1 These pictures tell a story about the Loch Ness monster, but they are not in the correct order. What is happening in the pictures?



2 Read the story and check your ideas. Then, put the pictures in order.

Today, the Loch Ness monster is famous round the world, but not many people realise that the stories about it started as long ago as AD 565. The first report described how St Columba, a monk, punished Scotland's most famous monster after it had attacked a man.

The story took place when Columba was living at Fort Augustus at the southern end of the loch. One day Columba asked one of his monks to swim across the loch and fetch a boat. The monk had heard people in the village talk about the monster but he wasn't frightened. It was a good day for a swim. Although it was very cold, the sun was shining and the water was calm. However, as he was crossing the loch he suddenly saw a strange creature. It was huge and had a long neck. He had not seen anything like it before. It was swimming not far away but didn't seem to notice the monk at first. A few minutes later, it suddenly stopped and looked at the swimmer. Then it rushed towards him and opened its frightful mouth in a roar. The man was terrified. Columba hurried down to the water's edge, got into a boat and rowed out into the lake. When he was near the monster, he cried out, 'Do not touch that man! Go!' and ordered the monster not to attack again. The monster looked at Columba for a moment, then turned and disappeared. The monster has not attacked anyone since. Indeed, for many years it was not seen in that part of the lake. Of course, nowadays no one knows if the story is true, but reported sightings of 'Nessie' continue to this day.

Grammar check

► P135

Past simple, past continuous and past perfect

Forms

1 Complete the table.

	past simple	past continuous	past perfect
describe			
look			
hurry			
swim			
hear			
see			

Uses

2 Look at the text again and find an example of each of the following uses.

Past simple

a an action which happened at a particular time:

b a series of actions which take place one after the other in the past:

Past continuous

c an action / state that continued for some time:

d describing the setting of a story:

e an action that was taking place when another action (past simple) interrupted it:

Past perfect

f an action that happened before another action:

Past simple or past continuous?

3 Put the verb in brackets in the correct form of the past simple or past continuous.

- 1 They _____ (listen) to a new CD when Max _____ (arrive).
- 2 It _____ (be) a cold winter's day. The sun _____ (shine), but it _____ (freeze).
- 3 Julia _____ (run) through the park when she _____ (notice) a poster for the marathon.
- 4 Where _____ you _____ (live) when you _____ (meet) Kevin?
- 5 He _____ (start) the car and _____ (drive off).
- 6 The engine _____ (make) a noise, so he _____ (take) the car to a garage.

Past simple or past perfect?

4 Read the sentence and answer the questions.

Before I went to India, I had read several guide books.

- 1 Which event happened first? What tells you?
- 2 Could *before I went to India* be at the end of the sentence?

5 Put the verb in brackets in the correct tense.

- 1 When Simon _____ (have) a shower, he _____ (get) dressed.
- 2 After we _____ (finish) shopping, we _____ (decide) to go to the museum.
- 3 When we _____ (arrive) in the town centre, we realised we _____ (leave) the map behind.
- 4 The car _____ (run out) of petrol because we _____ (not fill up) the tank before leaving.
- 5 When they _____ (arrive) at the beach, it _____ (start) raining.

Past simple, past continuous or past perfect?

6  3.1 Listen and complete the text with the correct word.

A few years ago I 1 _____ camping with a friend in the Rocky Mountains in the USA. People 2 _____ us about bears before we left, so we did all the right things. We 3 _____ next to the tent and we cleaned our cooking equipment after we 4 _____ our meals. Every night we 5 _____ all the food in a bag and hung it from a tree. One night, I 6 _____ peacefully when I suddenly woke up because I 7 _____ a

Let's activate

Telling a story

7 Work in small groups and make up a story about a journey or holiday that went wrong. Use the points below and one of the pictures to help you.



- where you were
- who you were with
- what the weather and the place were like
- what you were doing
- what preparations you had made before
- what went wrong
- how you solved the problem
- how you felt at the end of the experience

Example

A few years ago, I went to Lake Mamry on a sailing holiday. I went with my cousins...

8 Write the story.

strange noise. My heart started beating fast. It was a bear and it 8 _____ to reach the food in the bag! I didn't know what to do, so I 9 _____ to wake my friend, but he wasn't there. 10 _____ the bear _____ my friend? I slowly 11 _____ outside. It wasn't a bear. My friend had got hungry in the middle of the night, so he 12 _____ the tree to try and get some food. Unfortunately, he had got stuck!

Let's practise grammar

Past simple spelling

1 What is the past simple of these verbs? Put them in the right column according to their past simple ending.

realise • start • describe • attack • live • swim • fetch
shine • cross • stop • hurry • try • see • know

-d	-ed	-ied	-[tt]ed	irregular

Past simple or past continuous?

2 Put the verb in brackets in the correct tense.

- When the teacher _____ (talk) about her weekend, someone _____ (ask) her a question.
- Tom _____ (walk) down the street when he _____ (see) Jane.
- Mike _____ (not work) when Tina _____ (arrive). He _____ (watch) TV.
- Clare _____ (look) different when I _____ (meet) her at the party.
- The supermodel _____ (fall over) as she _____ (walk) along the catwalk.
- While they _____ (climb) the mountain, it _____ (begin) to snow.
- We _____ (drive) to London when we _____ (have) an accident.
- I _____ (swim) in the lake when I _____ (get) a pain in my leg.

Past perfect

3 Join the pairs of sentences. Use the past perfect and the word in brackets.

Example

- We reached Greece. We were on the road for five weeks.
(when)
We had been on the road for five weeks when we reached Greece.
or
When we reached Greece, we had been on the road for five weeks.
- We went to Chile. We went to Brazil first. (after)
- I never did anything like white-water rafting. I decided to try it. (so)
- We didn't see each other for a long time. We met for a drink. (when)
- We walked for many miles. We saw the village. (when)
- Sarah knew the road very well. She travelled that way many times. (so)

Past simple, past continuous or past perfect?

4 Complete the text using these verbs in the correct tense.

walk • notice • put on • live • meet • cross • go
stop • blow • not see • scream • rain

One winter evening many years ago, I was in London. I 1 _____ in a small village at the time, but I 2 _____ to London that morning because I had a meeting. After the meeting, I had a couple of hours before my train left. It 3 _____ and it was cold and windy, so I was feeling miserable. I 4 _____ down Oxford Street when quite by chance I 5 _____ an old friend. We 6 _____ each other for years, so we decided to go for a coffee. She seemed very different and her hair was much darker than I remembered. We 7 _____ the road when suddenly there was a strong gust of wind. My friend 8 _____ and started to run down the road. The traffic 9 _____. I couldn't understand what was happening until I 10 _____ a strange black furry bundle. The wind 11 _____ it down the street and my friend was chasing it. It was her hair – a wig, actually. She's an actress you see, and she was on her way to a rehearsal and she 12 _____ the wig an hour earlier to get used to it.

5 Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- When they were playing tennis, it was beginning to rain.
- Tom wasn't knowing that he was being followed.
- When I lived in Hollywood I was sometimes seeing famous actors.
- Paul was cooking dinner when the fire was starting.
- I drove past the bank when I was seeing the robbery.
- When Sue walked down the street, she was hearing someone call her name.