Read the rule. Using the Past Simple, the Past Continuous and tast Perfect

GRAMMAR FOCUS narrative forms

- In narratives, we use the past simple for the main events in a story.
  *Something **knocked** into the boat.*
  1 _____
- We use the past continuous for background events, or longer actions interrupted by a shorter event.
  *The sun **was setting** ...*
  *We **were reaching** the end of the tour one evening, when something knocked into the boat.*
  2 _____
- We use the past perfect for events that happened before the main past time we are talking about.
  *I was 27 and **had been** a river guide for several years.*
  3 _____

Complete the story with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

A lucky escape

That reminds me of another story I heard about a man who had a lucky escape. He [1]_____ (be) at a barbecue restaurant on top of a mountain, and after the meal he [2]_____ (decide) not to take the cable car down with his friends, but to walk down instead. While he [3]_____ (look) for the path, he [4]_____ (fall) into a stream and [5]_____ (break) his leg. Unable to move, he [6]_____ (try) to phone for help, but his mobile [7]_____ (work) because he [8]_____ (drop) it in the stream. Knowing he was missing, teams of people [9]_____ (look) for him, but it was twenty-four days before they [10]_____ (find) him. Luckily he [11]_____ (bring) a bottle of barbecue sauce with him to the barbecue, and he [12]_____ (survive) by drinking water mixed with the barbecue sauce.

LIVEWORKSHEETS