

Read the rule. Using the Past Simple, the Past Continuous and Past 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 <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (be) at a barbecue restaurant on top of a mountain, and after the meal he <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (decide) not to take the cable car down with his friends, but to walk down instead. While he <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (look) for the path, he <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (fall) into a stream and <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (break) his leg. Unable to move, he <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (try) to phone for help, but his mobile <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (work) because he <sup>8</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (drop) it in the stream. Knowing he was missing, teams of people <sup>9</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (look) for him, but it was twenty-four days before they <sup>10</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (find) him. Luckily he <sup>11</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (bring) a bottle of barbecue sauce with him to the barbecue, and he <sup>12</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (survive) by drinking water mixed with the barbecue sauce.