

Grammar

Narrative tenses

Recognizing tenses

1 Read the story. Why is there a question mark after the title?



Brigit Larsen, from Norway, was visiting London last autumn, when she noticed a handsome young man on the Underground. He was wearing headphones and listening to music. She was too shy to talk to him, but she secretly took his photograph with her phone. She returned home but couldn't forget the young man she *had seen* on the Tube, so she put his photo and this message on a social media site.



05/12/2015
Brigit Larsen

On October 8 this mystery young man *was travelling* on the London Underground, Victoria Line. He *got off* at Green Park at about 5.30 p.m.

If you know him, or you are him, please call 00 47 571 43 890.



Brigit *didn't* have much hope of getting a reply. Fortunately, the message was seen by a journalist from London's City News and both message and photo were *printed* in the newspaper. Immediately, the young man was *identified* by one of his work colleagues. He was 24-year-old Theo Asher, a graphic designer from south-west London.

Theo said, 'In fact, when my friend *showed* me the photo, I'd already *seen* it.'

He *had been* standing on the Tube on his way to work and as usual lots of people were *reading* City News. He couldn't understand why they were giving him funny looks. 'Then I *saw* my picture!'

So, was there a happy ending? Well, that's still to be seen. Theo called Brigit and they *met* when she returned to London. They *had* their first date, a meal in Covent Garden, and they *got on* really well. Who knows what will happen in the future?

2 Read the story again. Put the verbs in *italics* in the correct place in the chart.

Past Simple (x10)

Past Continuous (x5)

Past Simple passive (x3)

Past Perfect (x2)

Past Perfect Continuous (x1)

Forming the tenses

3 Use the information in the story to complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in **bold**.

visit PAST CONTINUOUS PAST PERFECT

1 Brigit _____ London for the first time.
2 She _____ never _____ London before.

wear PAST SIMPLE PAST CONTINUOUS

3 Theo _____ headphones when Brigit saw him.
4 He said he always _____ headphones on the Tube.

see PAST PERFECT PAST SIMPLE PASSIVE

5 The message and photo _____ by a colleague of Theo.
6 Theo said that he _____ already _____ the photo.

wait PAST CONTINUOUS PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

7 Brigit _____ for news back home in Norway when Theo phoned.
8 She _____ only _____ a few days when Theo got in touch.

Forming questions

4 Complete the questions about Brigit and Theo.

1 'When was she visiting London?'
'Last autumn.'

2 'Who _____ on the Tube?'
'A handsome young man.'

3 'What _____?' 'Listening to music.'

4 'Why _____?'
'Because she was shy.'

5 'Where _____ the message _____?'
'In City News.'

6 'Why _____ Theo _____ standing on the Tube?'
'Because there hadn't been any room to sit down.'

4.1 Listen and check.

Forming negatives

5 Correct these sentences about the story.

1 Brigit put Theo's photo in an album.

She didn't put his photo in an album. She put it on social media.

2 Theo and Brigit were travelling on the bus.

3 Theo's photo was identified by a journalist.

4 He'd been sitting on the Tube when he saw his picture.

Past Simple or Past Perfect?

6 Read the beginning of a **romantic novel**. Why is Nancy exhausted? What happens to wake her up?

7 Read the extract again and **underline** the correct tense.



CHAPTER ONE



Hot Chocolate or Champagne?

It was ten o'clock in the evening. Nancy ¹sat / had sat down on her sofa and thought about the day. What a busy day it ²was / had been. This was her first night in her very own flat. She ³lived / had lived her entire life so far, 23 years, in the family home with her parents, and now for the first time, she ⁴was / had been on her own.

She sat surrounded by all the boxes that she ⁵didn't manage / hadn't managed to unpack during the day. It ⁶took / had taken months to get all her belongings together and her mum and dad ⁷were / had been very generous, buying her things like towels and mugs.

She suddenly ⁸felt / had felt exhausted, she yawned. No wonder she ⁹was / had been tired! She ¹⁰was / had been packing and unpacking since six o'clock in the morning. She ¹¹decided / had decided to make a mug of hot chocolate and go to bed. She knew she ¹²packed / had packed the mugs somewhere, but she couldn't remember where.

There was a knock at her door. There stood a neighbour holding a bunch of flowers and a bottle of champagne. He ¹³came / had come to welcome her to their apartment block. Nancy was suddenly awake! Champagne ¹⁴won / had won over hot chocolate every time. Her neighbour smiled at her. He ¹⁵looked / had looked like a really nice guy.

4.2 Listen and check.