Grammar

Narrative tenses

Recognizing tenses

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



A LOVE STORY?

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.



UNDERGROUND

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)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

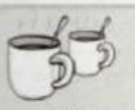
5 Correct these sentences about the story.

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

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

She suddenly [8] *felt / had felt* exhausted, she yawned. No wonder she [9] *was / had been* tired! She [10] *was / had been* packing and unpacking since six o'clock in the morning. She [11] *decided / had decided* to make a mug of hot chocolate and go to bed. She knew she [12] *packed / 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 [13] *came / had come* to welcome her to their apartment block. Nancy was suddenly awake! Champagne [14] *won / had won* over hot chocolate every time. Her neighbour smiled at her. He [15] *looked / had looked* like a really nice guy.

4.2 Listen and check.

LIVEWORKSHEETS