

# Grammar

## Narrative tenses

### 1 Choose the correct option to complete the paragraph about a summer in Finland.

A couple of years ago, after I <sup>1</sup>finished / was finishing school, I <sup>2</sup>spent / had spent the summer on a farm in Finland. I <sup>3</sup>looked / had been looking for a cheap way to get there ever since I <sup>4</sup>found out / was finding out you can see the Aurora Borealis (the lights in the sky over the Arctic circle) from there. I <sup>5</sup>ended up / was ending up working on an organic farm in exchange for free accommodation. While there, I <sup>6</sup>made / had been making friends with people who <sup>7</sup>went / had been to all sorts of places with the same scheme. After I <sup>8</sup>was working / had been working for a month, I <sup>9</sup>took / had been taking a few days off and <sup>10</sup>travelled / was travelling to the north to see the Aurora Borealis. I <sup>11</sup>was hoping / had hoped for good weather and clear nights – you can't see the lights in the rain – and I was lucky. The Aurora was spectacular – the month's work <sup>12</sup>was being / had been worth it.

### 2 Read the sentences and the endings. Which option (a-c) is not correct?

- 1 While I was cycling along the path, ...
  - ... my tyre got a puncture.
  - ... I had fallen off my bike.
  - ... mosquitoes were flying all around me.
- 2 Five minutes after leaving home, we realized ...
  - ... we didn't lock the door.
  - ... we'd left our bags behind.
  - ... we had been driving in the wrong direction.
- 3 When I looked through my holiday photos, I thought about the ...
  - ... new friends I made.
  - ... places I was visiting.
  - ... things I had seen.
- 4 We'd been following the path for hours ...
  - ... and we were getting tired.
  - ... when suddenly it had disappeared.
  - ... because we'd lost the phone signal.
- 5 The station was really busy because ...
  - ... people were going home from work.
  - ... it was the New Year break.
  - ... the summer holidays just began.

The Aurora Borealis



6 We arrived at the beach as ...

- a ... the sun was going down.
- b ... it started raining.
- c ... everyone there had left.

3 Change the narrative tense in the incorrect options in Exercise 2 so that the sentence is correct.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_

4 Complete the story about a picnic with the correct form of the verb in brackets. Sometimes more than one form is possible.

This happened when I<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (work) in Azerbaijan a few years ago. I<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in the capital, Baku, for a couple of months when I had the opportunity to get out of the city on a day trip. Four of us<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (set off) one beautiful spring morning in a colleague's car. We<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Lahic, a village in the mountains to the north. We<sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) along for about an hour when suddenly, the car broke down. Luckily, Tural, the driver<sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (manage to) fix the problem. But by the time we made it to Lahic, we<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) a half a dozen times. By then it was lunchtime and we were feeling hungry. We saw a small table in a grassy area and thought, 'Aha, a café.' We sat down, and almost immediately a young boy<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) us plates of salad and snacks. As we were eating, we<sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (notice) several other tables near us. Small groups of men<sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (smile and wave) at us while they had their lunch. When we'd finished, we tried to pay, but one of the men came over to explain that they<sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) telephone workers on an excursion and no payment was necessary – they<sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (share) their picnic with us!

5 Match the past forms (1–4) with the explanations (a–d) and the example sentences (A–D).

- 1 past simple \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 past continuous \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 past perfect simple \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 past perfect continuous \_\_\_\_\_

- a events that happened before the main event
- b main events
- c events in progress before the main event; use to emphasize continuation
- d events in progress at a point in the past

- A We were working on a farm before we left for Buenos Aires.
- B It had been raining and the air was fresh and the earth smelled good.
- C Suddenly the door slammed shut.
- D The man had stopped walking and seemed to be thinking.

## Pronunciation

### Pronouncing groups of two or more consonants

1   Underline the letters that make groups of consonants in the words in bold. Then listen to how they are pronounced.

- 1 We were **absolutely** amazed by the view.
- 2 I reacted a bit too **angrily** at the change in plans.
- 3 It was **completely** dark when we arrived home.
- 4 The children ran **excitedly** into the sea.
- 5 The shop was **incredibly** difficult to find.
- 6 I felt **strangely** sad to leave everyone.

2   Listen and repeat the sentences in Exercise 1.