04 Inside story

4A GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY

Narrative tenses; Past Perfect Simple and Continuous

1 ★★ **Put the sentences in order to make a story. Then match the sentences with their meanings a–f.**

- ☐ I stopped my car, got out and stood in the road to see what it was.
- [1] At midnight last night, I was driving back to my home in the country.
- ☐ I felt tired because I had been driving all day.
- ☐ By the time I got to the field, the object had disappeared.
- ☐ Suddenly, I saw an object in the sky.
- ☐ While I was watching the object, it fell into a field.

Past Simple
a ☐ an action that started and finished in the past b ☐ actions which follow each other in a story
Past Continuous
c ☐ an action in progress at a specific point in the past d ☐ an interrupted past action
Past Perfect Simple
e ☐ an action which took place before another past action
Past Perfect Continuous
f ☐ a situation or an action which continued up to a certain time in the past

2 ★★ **Read the situations and use the prompts to write sentences in the Past Perfect Continuous.**

1 Anne got into trouble at school for using her phone.
She / text / during lessons
She'd been texting during lessons.

2 Gavin had ink all round his mouth.
He / chew / his pen / during the exam
_____

3 The central square was underwater.
It / rain / for five days
_____

4 The gang was convicted of fraud.
They / print / fake money
_____

5 The president was assassinated while giving a speech.
He / speak / at a political protest meeting
_____

3 ★★ **Complete the text with the forms from the box.**

had been investigating ~~had been working~~ had fallen
had just finished had never seen
had never witnessed had they seen

Professor Lindeman was exhausted. He [1]*had been working* late all week long on his paper regarding the possibilities of alien life existing in our universe. He [2]_____ for the night when he noticed a strange light outside the window. He [3]_____ anything like it. For many years, he [4]_____ UFO sightings and other bizarre events, but he [5]_____ one himself. Was this it? He rose and moved towards the window. [6]_____ his research and come to abduct him? As he reached the window, he felt something touch his shoulder. He jumped and suddenly he was back in his chair. His wife was shaking his shoulder. He [7]_____ asleep at his desk again.

4 ★★ **Complete the sentences with the correct Past Perfect Simple or Past Perfect Continuous forms of the verbs in bold.**

1 **PLAY**
- a Clara's music player *had been playing* for nineteen hours when the battery ran out.
- b Clara's music player _____ nearly two hundred songs when the battery ran out.

2 **ELIMINATE**
- a Inspector Fielding _____ all the other suspects when he arrested Stokes.
- b Inspector Fielding _____ suspects at an impressive rate.

3 **EXPOSE**
- a The journalist _____ four corrupt MPs in the previous three months.
- b The journalist _____ corrupt MPs for his entire twenty-year career.

4 **EAT**
- a The prince _____ breakfast when he collapsed.
- b The prince _____ something poisonous during breakfast.

5 **DROP**
- a Viola _____ several hints regarding what she wanted for her birthday.
- b Viola _____ hints all week regarding what she wanted for her birthday.

LIVEWORKSHEETS