

## 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.

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 <sup>1</sup>had been working late all week long on his paper regarding the possibilities of alien life existing in our universe. He <sup>2</sup>had just finished for the night when he noticed a strange light outside the window. He <sup>3</sup>had never seen anything like it. For many years, he <sup>4</sup>had never witnessed UFO sightings and other bizarre events, but he <sup>5</sup>had never seen one himself. Was this it? He rose and moved towards the window. <sup>6</sup>had been working 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 <sup>7</sup>had been sleeping 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 had been playing nearly two hundred songs when the battery ran out.

## 2 ELIMINATE

a Inspector Fielding had eliminated all the other suspects when he arrested Stokes.  
b Inspector Fielding had eliminated suspects at an impressive rate.

## 3 EXPOSE

a The journalist had exposed four corrupt MPs in the previous three months.  
b The journalist had exposed corrupt MPs for his entire twenty-year career.

## 4 EAT

a The prince had eaten breakfast when he collapsed.  
b The prince had eaten something poisonous during breakfast.

## 5 DROP

a Viola had dropped several hints regarding what she wanted for her birthday.  
b Viola had dropped hints all week regarding what she wanted for her birthday.