

Narrative Tenses - Practice

USE

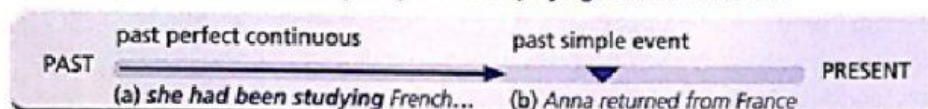
Use past perfect continuous

- in a past tense narrative, to describe a continuing action in a period of time before something else happened.

*Anna returned from France, where she **had been studying** French.*

- to explain a past situation, by describing the events happening before.

*Both boys **were** wet and muddy. They **had been playing** football in the rain.*



Read the sentences about two mountain climbers. Then complete the sentence with the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous form of the verb in brackets.

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| <p>a The two climbers stopped to rest. They (climb) <u>had been climbing</u> for hours and were exhausted. Things were not looking good.</p> <p>b They were very cold, because it (snow) <u> </u> heavily since mid-morning, and one of them (hurt) <u> </u> his ankle.</p> <p>c They (look) <u> </u> for shelter for the past two hours, because they realized that the weather was going to get worse.</p> <p>d They (already phone) <u> </u> the rescue centre for help.</p> <p>e They (also leave) <u> </u> details of their planned route at the village where they stayed the night.</p> | <p>f They were experienced climbers and they (prepare) <u> </u> carefully for their trip. They knew there was a cave halfway up the mountain.</p> <p>g They spent a long time searching for the cave before they realized that they (head) <u> </u> in the wrong direction. Then the snow stopped, and they could see the dark entrance of the cave nearby.</p> <p>h Luckily they (bring) <u> </u> warm clothes and plenty of food with them, and they waited safely in the cave.</p> |
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2 Complete the sentence with the past simple or past perfect simple form of the verb in brackets.

- a When I (try) tried to use my laptop, I realized the battery (run) down.
- b I (turn) the computer off, but forgot that I (not save) my work.
- c I only remembered I (not pay) the bill when my Internet connection (stop) working.
- d When I (receive) the e-mail, I couldn't understand who (send) it.
- e When I (check) the instructions, I understood what I (do) .
- f I knew I (receive) a virus when I (run) the anti-virus program.
- g As soon as I (download) the document, I knew I (make) a mistake.
- h I could see what (go) wrong as soon as I (look) inside the printer.
- i I knew I (press) the wrong key when nothing (happen) .
- j When the screen (go) blank, I couldn't understand how it (happen) .