

FCE / MET NARRATIVE TENSES

PAST SIMPLE, PAST CONTINUOUS OR PAST PERFECT

Choose the correct option for each gap.

When Craig Myers _____ his restaurant, he got it for a very good price because it _____ empty for two years. Nobody wanted to buy the place because people said that it had a ghost. The ghost was a lady in a long green dress who _____ a singer in the restaurant years before. People said that one night, on her way home from the restaurant, the singer _____ her car off the road, over some cliffs and into the sea below. Nobody had ever seen the singer alive again. People said they had seen her ghost, but Craig _____ in ghosts so he wasn't worried.

Three months after he _____ the restaurant, Craig opened it again. He called it ***The Green Lady***.

The restaurant _____ open for six months when a strange thing happened. It was a Saturday night. Everybody had left and Craig _____ up the restaurant.

Suddenly he heard a woman singing in the dining room. She _____ a traditional song called "Greensleeves". Craig went into the dining room. The voice was louder there, but the room was empty. Craig _____ the restaurant tape recorder and the radio in the kitchen, but they were both switched off. He couldn't stop the strange singing but he didn't feel very worried.

He _____ up the restaurant, got into his car and started to drive home. On the way home, he _____ asleep and crashed his car into a tree.

He woke up in hospital. Two police officers _____ in the room with him.

"We need to ask you some questions," they said.

"Who was the woman in the car with you? We haven't been able to find her since the accident."

"I _____ anyone with me in the car," Craig answered.

"Yes, you did," the younger police officer said. "We _____ behind you and we both saw her. She _____ a green dress."

GO FOR IT!

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense, Past Simple, Continuous or Perfect.

It was a cool evening in September 1895. John Markham (had) _____ a hard day at work, and he (look forward to) _____ getting home. Suddenly, a woman (rush) _____ out of the office next door. She (shake) _____ with fright because she (hear) _____ someone screaming in the cellar. She was sure it was a ghost.

John (not believe) _____ in ghosts so he (go) _____ into the building to investigate. It was very quiet. But just as he (think) _____ that it was all the woman's imagination, he (hear) _____ screams.

"Who are you? What do you want?" cried John. The screaming (not stop) _____ so he (hurry) _____ towards the place where it (come from) _____. He (reach) _____ the door leading to the cellar, (take) _____ a candle and (go) _____ down the cellar stairs. Suddenly, the door (slam) _____ behind him, making a piece of paper fall from a shelf above his head. He (examine) _____ the piece of paper carefully. It was the death certificate of a fifteen-year-old girl called Alice Pick. She (die) _____ of starvation.

The next day, John (tell) _____ his neighbour about the evening's extraordinary events. Apparently, the building (not always / be) _____ an office. It (once/ belong) _____ to a rich woman called Eva Tyndale who had shut Alice, her servant, in the cellar. One of the other servants told the police, but by the time they discovered Alice, she was dead and Mrs Tyndale (disappear) _____.