

Narrative Tenses

Name: _____

A. From the information above, complete the following sentences.



1. Amancio Ortega's clothing empire _____ in over 80 countries when, in 2011, he _____ as chairman and _____ into property investment.
 was operating, resigned, moved
 had operated, was resigning, had moved
2. Before she _____ Google, Sheryl Sandberg _____ for the US Treasury. She _____ to the position of Chief of Staff by the time she left.
 joined, had been working, had risen
 was joining, was working, rose
3. Carolyn McCall _____ her degree when she met her husband. After graduating from university, she _____ as a teacher.
 did, had trained
 was doing, trained

Complete the sentences with the past perfect continuous form of the verbs. Use contracted forms where possible.

1. My friend _____ (think) about leaving college, but I persuaded him to stay on.
2. I _____ (not / work) for the company long when I got promoted.
3. They were so pleased with their success because they _____ (not / expect) it.
4. How long _____ you _____ (discuss) the new plans before everyone agreed?
5. _____ the business _____ (lose) money for a long time when it closed?
6. We _____ (not / get) good results, so we tried a new strategy.

Choose the correct option to complete the text below.

Many years ago I 1 [] to spend New Year's Eve with my family.

I 2 [] new year with my parents but I had nowhere to go, and being with my family seemed preferable to being on my own.

When my parents 3 [] the door I could see they 4 [], and that they were genuinely happy to see me. I 5 [] addicted to heroin for 10 years, and for them, seeing me was the confirmation that I wasn't dead in an alley.

Unfortunately, I 6 [] nothing new or exciting to tell them, just the same sad old stories. I 7 [] from crappy job to crappy job, being invariably sacked, and I 8 [] to crime whenever I was out of money. Same old, same old.

During dinner, I 9 [] a few glassfuls of whisky.

I 10 [] something to make ease the pain, because for the whole evening my sisters 11 [] at me with such contempt that it was unbearable. My own sisters 12 [] me. Then I had a moment of realisation; I 13 [] that they would never hate me as much as I hated myself.

When we finished dinner I 14 [] my glass. "I'm going into rehab," I said. My parents 15 [] at me with some kind of hope. Parents never lose hope. But my sisters just 16 [] down with disdain.

They 17 [] perfectly well that I had been in rehab centres many times before, and that this time wouldn't be different.

But this time it was different. After that day, I 18 [] that look in my sisters' eyes every day, every time I 19 [] to shoot some heroin. 10 years later, on a New Year's Eve, I thanked my sisters because they 20 [] my life. They kissed me with their new look in their eyes, the look of love.