

Read the rule. Using the Past Simple, the Past Continuous and Past Perfect

GRAMMAR FOCUS narrative forms

- In narratives, we use the past simple for the main events in a story.

*Something **knocked** into the boat.*

1 _____

- We use the past continuous for background events, or longer actions interrupted by a shorter event.

*The sun **was setting** ...*

*We **were reaching** the end of the tour one evening, when something knocked into the boat.*

2 _____

- We use the past perfect for events that happened before the main past time we are talking about.

*I was 27 and **had been** a river guide for several years.*

3 _____

Complete the story with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

A lucky escape

That reminds me of another story I heard about a man who had a lucky escape. He ¹_____ (be) at a barbecue restaurant on top of a mountain, and after the meal he ²_____ (decide) not to take the cable car down with his friends, but to walk down instead. While he ³_____ (look) for the path, he ⁴_____ (fall) into a stream and ⁵_____ (break) his leg. Unable to move, he ⁶_____ (try) to phone for help, but his mobile ⁷_____ (work) because he ⁸_____ (drop) it in the stream. Knowing he was missing, teams of people ⁹_____ (look) for him, but it was twenty-four days before they ¹⁰_____ (find) him. Luckily he ¹¹_____ (bring) a bottle of barbecue sauce with him to the barbecue, and he ¹²_____ (survive) by drinking water mixed with the barbecue sauce.