# ACCESS TO FCE — NARRATIVE TENSES

**Read the theory and solve the activities.**

**Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect Simple, Past Perfect Continuous.**

**5** Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets in either the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

1 I ...*didn't hear*... (not hear) the alarm clock this morning because I ...*was*... (be) so tired.
2 When I ..... (see) Mary last night, I ..... (not realise) that something was wrong.
3 I ..... (study) in my room when the doorbell ..... (ring).
4 My mother ..... (read) a book while my father ..... (watch) TV.
5 The robber ..... (enter) the bank, ..... (order) everybody to lie down and ..... (take) all the money from the safe.
6 We ..... (plan) to have a barbeque party when it suddenly ..... (start) to rain.
7 The children ..... (dance) at the party when the lights ..... (go out).
8 How ..... (you break) your arm?
9 I ..... (ski) last weekend when I ..... (fall) and ..... (break) my leg.
10 I ..... (not feel) very well this morning, so I ..... (ask) my boss for permission to leave early.
11 Why ..... (you / not tell) me the truth in the first place?
12 He ..... (sit) on the bank of the river when he ..... (see) a rare bird.
13 It ..... (rain) heavily when I ..... (wake) up this morning.
14 Everyone in the library ..... (read) quietly when suddenly the door ..... (open).
15 I ..... (go) to Paul's house yesterday but I ..... (not find) him there.
16 While I ..... (wonder) whether to buy the suit or not, a man ..... (come) in and bought it.
17 'What ..... (you / do) from 10 am to 2 pm yesterday?' asked the detective.
18 My dog ..... (attack) the postman while he ..... (try) to deliver a letter.
19 We ..... (not sleep) all night because our next door neighbours ..... (have) a noisy party which went on till early in the morning.
20 'What ..... (you / do) when the burglars ..... (get) in?'
'I ..... (watch) TV and my children ..... (study) in their room.'
21 ..... (you / work) when your boss ..... (arrive) unexpectedly?
22 Why ..... (you / not report) the burglary at once?

**6** Put the verbs in brackets into the Past Simple or the Past Continuous.

I (1) ...*was walking*... (walk) along Regent Street when I (2) ..... (realise) that a man (3) ..... (follow) me. I (4) ..... (turn) right and he (5) ..... (follow). Whenever I (6) ..... (stop), he (7) ..... (do) too. I (8) ..... (decide) to take the 717 bus from the bus stop just behind me. Just as the bus (9) ..... (move) off, I (10) ..... (jump) on. The man (11) ..... (miss) the bus but he (12) ..... (get) on another 717. He (13) ..... (seem) rather angry. I (14) ..... (get) off at Leicester Square with lots of other people. He (15) ..... (not notice) me getting off the bus. I immediately (16) ..... (head) for the nearest police station to report him.

**7** Complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets into the Past Perfect Simple or Continuous.

1 When her parents arrived, she ...*had been doing*... (do) her homework for three hours.
2 As soon as she got home, she realised she ..... (leave) her glasses at work.
3 My brother ..... (try) to repair the TV for two hours before I called him.
4 Lisa ..... (never see) such a beautiful painting until she went to the Museum of Modern Art.
5 Amanda ..... (work) as a waitress for three years before she became a singer.
6 By the time the film ended, she ..... (fall asleep) on the sofa.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**2** Complete the sentences with one of the time expressions from the box.

| for | already | since | after | by the time | until |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

1 I started taking driving lessons only ..... *after* ..... I had bought a new car.
2 The train had already left ..... we reached the station.
3 Sheila had been waiting for me ..... four o' clock.
4 They had been trying to solve the problem ..... three hours when they finally found the solution.
5 She had ..... done her homework by the time her friend came to see her.
6 He didn't leave ..... he had paid the bill.

**3** Complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets into the Past Simple or the Past Perfect Simple.

1 When I ..... *saw* ..... (see) Bill yesterday, he ..... *hadn't sold* ..... (not sell) his car.
2 The airplane ..... (already take off) when we ..... (arrive) at the airport.
3 As soon as she ..... (enter) the house, she ..... (realise) that somebody ..... (break in) and ..... (steal) all her furniture.
4 When I ..... (arrive) at the cinema, my friend Alice ..... (already buy) the tickets.
5 After I ..... (tidy) my room, I ..... (ask) my mother to let me go out with my friends.
6 By the time I ..... (phone) her, she ..... (already arrange) to go out.
7 That was the first time I ..... (ever sing) on stage.
8 The moment the plane took off, I realised that I ..... (leave) my glasses at home.

**4** Complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets into the Past Simple or the Past Perfect Simple or Continuous.

1 Mary ..... *had been studying* ..... (study) for ten hours before she went to bed.
2 How long ..... (you / clean) your room when your mother ..... (arrive) yesterday?
3 I ..... (drive) for three hours when the accident ..... (happen).
4 When she ..... (see) the doctor, she ..... (tell) him that she ..... (not sleep) for three days.
5 The teacher ..... (tell) us that he ..... (teach) for ten years before he ..... (come) to our school.
6 Until I ..... (find) this job, I ..... (search) for almost ten months without success.
7 Until yesterday, he ..... (never ride) a motorbike before.
8 She ..... (try) to explain why she ..... (lie) to her parents when a policeman ..... (call) to say that they should go to the police station.
9 By the time I ..... (get) to the theatre, the play ..... (start).
10 I ..... (not start) tidying up until all the guests ..... (leave).

Teacher Daniela.

LIVEWORKSHEETS