

CAMBRIDGE GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY FOR FCE

Read the theory and solve the activities.

NARRATIVE TENSES

2 Complete the sentences. Use the past continuous, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 They stayed in the tent because it was raining (rain).
- 1 The roads were wet because it (rain) all night.
- 2 He was broke. He (spend) all his money on clothes.
- 3 I (have) a nightmare when the alarm went off and woke me up.
- 4 His hands were covered in oil because he (try) to fix the car all morning.
- 5 When she opened the window, she was happy to see it (snow) lightly. In fact, it (snow) all night and snow (cover) all the rooftops.
- 6 When Mrs Morgan came into the classroom, the pupils (run) around and they (scream) at the top of their voices. They (knock) over chairs and desks and someone (draw) funny pictures on the board.
- 7 Although I (set off) early, I got there late and everyone (wait) for me to start the meeting. Mr Wilson told me they (wait) for a whole hour.
- 8 When we got back from our holiday, we discovered that someone (break into) our house. The burglars, however, (drop) a piece of paper with an address on it as they (climb) out of the window.

1 Choose the correct answer.

- 0 Columbus discovered / was discovering America though at first he believed he had reached / had been reaching Asia.
- 1 Hillary and Tenzing were climbing / had been climbing for several days when they reached / had reached the summit.
- 2 Scott reached / was reaching the South Pole in 1912 but Amundsen had beaten / was beating him by a month.
- 3 Franklin flew / was flying a kite when he made / was making a very important discovery about electricity.
- 4 Before Columbus discovered / was discovering America, people were believing / had believed that the Earth was flat.
- 5 Newton made / was making his great discovery while he was sitting / had been sitting under an apple tree.

3 Complete the article. Use the past simple, past continuous, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous of the verbs in brackets.

Mark Zuckerberg, creator of Facebook

The pre-Facebook years

By the time he ⁽⁰⁾ began (begin) classes at Harvard, Mark Zuckerberg ⁽¹⁾ (achieve) a reputation as a programming genius. Before the end of his second year at university, he ⁽²⁾ (already / design) *CourseMatch*, a program that helped students choose classes based on the choices other students ⁽³⁾ (make). At the time, Mark ⁽⁴⁾ (study) psychology and computer science.

A short time later, he created *Facemash*, a program that let students select the best-looking person from different photos. Until then, students ⁽⁵⁾ (use) books called 'Face Books', which included the names and photos of everyone who lived in the student dorms. *Facemash* went up over the weekend but by Monday morning, the college ⁽⁶⁾ (take) it down because its popularity

⁽⁷⁾ (flood) Harvard's server. Before *Facemash*, students ⁽⁸⁾ (ask) the university to develop a similar website for months. Mark ⁽⁹⁾ (work) on a very similar idea when he heard about these requests, so he decided to do something about them – and promised to build a better site than what the university ⁽¹⁰⁾ (plan).

