Narrative Tenses & Storytelling

Narrative Tenses

We use different past tenses to tell stories.

Past Simple

Use it for:

- **Finished** actions in the past

- **Main** events in a story

Examples:

I **went to** a party last night.

She **met** a famous singer.

They **watched** a movie.

Past Continuous

Use it for:

- Actions in **progress** in the past

- **Background** actions

- An action **interrupted** by another action

Examples:

I **was walking** home.

She **was talking** when the phone rang.

Past Perfect

Use it for:

- An action that happened **before** another past action

Examples:

I **had finished** my homework before dinner.

She **had left** when I arrived.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercise 1 – Choose the correct tense

1. I _____ (walk) in the park when I saw my best friend.
2. She _____ (already / finish) dinner when her parents arrived.
3. They _____ (play) football yesterday afternoon.
4. While we _____ (watch) TV, the lights went out.
5. He _____ (lose) his keys before he left the house.
6. I _____ (sleep) when the alarm rang.

Exercise 2 – Complete with the correct form of the verb

1. When I arrived at school, the class _____ (start).
2. She _____ (talk) on the phone when the accident happened.
3. We _____ (not see) that movie before.
4. They _____ (have) lunch when I called them.
5. I _____ (forget) my wallet, so I couldn't pay.

Exercise 3 – Choose the correct adverb

1. _____, I found my lost phone in my bag. (luckily / sadly)
2. _____, the dog ran into the street. (suddenly / fortunately)
3. _____, we missed the bus. (unfortunately / miraculously)
4. _____, I met my cousin at the airport. (coincidentally / sadly)
5. _____, nobody was hurt in the accident. (miraculously / unfortunately)

Exercise 5 – Write a short story (6–8 sentences)

Use Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect and at least TWO storytelling adverbs.

LIVEWORKSHEETS