

NARRATIVE TENSES



READ AND LISTEN TO THE BEGINNING OF A STORY.

What do you think happened next? How do you think the story ends?

Old Shep

After two years fighting in the war, Hugh Davis was finally going home. As the train was travelling through the hills and valleys of Kentucky, Hugh thought of his mother's home-made apple pie and his faithful old dog Shep lying beside the fire. It was already dark when the train arrived at the local station. It was raining hard and a strong wind was blowing. Then Hugh came out of the railway station. Shep was there waiting for him. The man and the dog were happy to see each other. Hugh patted his dog on the head and together they started the three-mile walk home.

While they were walking, the storm got worse and Hugh decided to take a short cut home, across the bridge over the river. As soon as he started to cross the bridge, Shep started barking loudly. Hugh stopped and looked round at Shep, but the dog kept barking furiously. Then Hugh looked down at the bridge...

Past simple vs. past continuous review

Look at these two sentences from the story of Old Shep. Which verbs are in the past simple? Which verbs are in the past continuous?

When Hugh *came out of the railway station*. Shep *was waiting for him*.

While they *were walking*, the storm *got worse*.

Complete the rule. Write *past simple*, *past continuous*, *when*, and *while*.

RULE: We use the _____ for an action that happened at one moment in the past. We often use _____ with this tense.

We use the _____ for a background action or description in the past. We often use _____ with this tense.

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs.

- 1 My brother was climbing a tree when he fell and broke his leg. (climb, fall).
- 2 When my parents _____ home, we _____ a DVD. (come, watch)
- 3 Jordan _____ while my sister _____ some homework. (phone, do)
- 4 While I _____ tennis, a ball _____ me in the eye. (play, hit)
- 5 Kimberley _____ the web when she _____ a great new site. (surf, find)
- 6 While we _____ on the beach, it _____ to rain. (walk, start)

* Time conjunctions: *as* / *then* / *as soon as*

We often use *as*, *then* and *as soon as* when we are talking about the past. Look at these sentences from the story, then complete the box using the words in bold.

Then Gelert lay down and died.

His newborn son was sleeping as Gelert watched over him.

As soon as he saw his master, the dog jumped up to greet him.

_____	= at the same time
_____	= at exactly the same moment
_____	= the next moment

COMBINE THE SENTENCES TO MAKE A STORY USING THE WORDS IN BRACKETS. YOU MAY NEED TO CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE SENTENCE HALVES.

1. I left the cinema. I started walking home. (then)
I left the cinema, then I started walking home.
2. I heard a strange noise. I was walking. (while)
3. I looked up. Something hit me on the head. (as)
4. The thing hit me. Everything went black. (as soon as)
5. I was lying in a hospital bed. I woke up. (when)
6. I rang the bell. A nurse came to talk to me. (as soon as)
7. The nurse was talking to me. I fell in love with her. (while)



READ THE SECOND PART OF THE STORY.
WHAT HAPPENED AT THE END?

When Hugh looked down, he saw that the middle part of the bridge had fallen into the river, and he could see the cold, fast-flowing water 30 metres below. When he turned round to thank Shep for saving his life, the dog had disappeared into the darkness. When Hugh finally got home, his mother was waiting at the door to welcome him. They hugged each other and then sat down for supper. His mother had cooked him a wonderful dinner and had also made his favourite dessert - apple pie. While he was eating, Hugh told her how Shep had saved his life. Then he looked up at his mother: her face had gone white. 'When you left to fight in the war, she said, 'it broke the dog's heart. Shep died two years ago, son'.

Past simple vs. past perfect simple

Look at these two sentences from the story.
Answer the questions.

*He saw that the middle part of the bridge **had fallen** into the river.*

*When he turned round to thank Shep for saving his life, the dog **had disappeared** into the darkness.*

- 1 Did the bridge fall into the river when Hugh looked down, or before?
- 2 Did Shep disappear when Hugh turned round, or before he turned round?

RULE: We use the to talk about an event that took place at a particular time in the past.

We use the when we need to make it clear that an event took place before another past event.

Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. One must be in the past perfect simple.

- 1 When Mike at the station, the train (arrive, leave)
- 2 The programme when Tessa on the TV. (finish, turn)
- 3 When they home, the dog their steak. (get, eat)
- 4 Everybody home when they to the party. (go, get)