

## Activity Type

Interactive reading and writing exercises

## Language Focus

Narrative tenses: past simple, past continuous, past perfect, past perfect continuous

## Aim

To learn four narrative tenses and how to use them to tell stories.

## Preparation

Send each student a copy of the interactive worksheet.

## Level

Intermediate (B1)

## Time

30 minutes

## Introduction

In this narrative tenses interactive worksheet, students learn four narrative tenses and how to use them to tell stories.

## Procedure

Send each student a copy of the interactive worksheet. Students begin by reading a short story and highlighting the correct forms of verbs using their PDF software's highlighting tool.

### Exercise A - Answer key

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. bought                  | 9. had always lived   |
| 2. had already been living | 10. hated             |
| 3. knew                    | 11. saw               |
| 4. looked                  | 12. ended             |
| 5. was                     | 13. visited           |
| 6. were walking            | 14. had seen          |
| 7. noticed                 | 15. bought            |
| 8. was                     | 16. had been dreaming |

Students then match the four narrative tenses to their descriptions.

### Exercise B - Answer key

- |                            |                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. past perfect            | 3. past simple     |
| 2. past perfect continuous | 4. past continuous |

Next, students use prompts to create sentences using the narrative tenses.

### Exercise C - Answer key

1. I had been playing football for years before I broke my leg.
2. While I was doing my homework, my sister called me.
3. She had taken a cooking lesson only once before she cooked for me.
4. I bought a new laptop after I had been using my old one for years.
5. The stylist had already cut the girl's hair before she changed her mind.
6. By the time my guests arrived, I had already started eating.

In the last exercise, students complete the first part of a story using verbs in their correct form. Students then continue the story using the four narrative tenses and their own ideas. Finally, have the students read their stories to the class and provide feedback.

### Exercise D - Answer key

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. decided           | 5. picked        |
| 2. had been planning | 6. drove         |
| 3. had never been    | 7. stopped       |
| 4. were              | 8. were standing |