

NARRATIVE TENSES

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Grammar

Narrative tenses help us tell stories and show the order of past events.

Examples: I was walking home when I saw an accident.
She had left before the meeting started.

Activity 1

The Witness Statements

Three people describe the same incident.

Maya: "When I arrived, the café was empty."

Ben: "The customers had already left when I got there."

Leo: "I was locking the door when the police arrived."

Who:
1. saw people inside the café?
2. arrived after the customers left?
3. was doing something when the police arrived?
4. describes an action already completed before another past action?

Timeline Detective

Read the clues.

- Emma arrived at the airport at 8:15.
- The plane departed at 8:00.
- She checked the departure screen immediately.

Complete:
1. By the time Emma arrived, the plane _____.
2. What probably made Emma check the screen?
3. Was Emma early or late?

Activity 2: Build the Story

Put the sentences in order.

a. The manager called the police.

b. The office alarm started ringing.

c. Someone discovered the broken window.

d. Employees arrived at work.

Activity 3: Finish the Mystery

Complete the story with your own ideas.

"When I arrived at the hotel, somebody had already _____.

While I was checking in, _____.

Later, I discovered that _____."

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Answer Key

Activity 1: The Witness Statements

1. Nobody
2. Ben
3. Leo
4. Ben

Timeline Detective

1. had departed / had left
2. She wanted to see if the flight was still there.
3. Late.

Activity 2: Build the Story

c → b → a → d

Activity 3: Finish the Mystery

Answers will vary.

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