PDF 1 - What are Narrative Tenses?



NARRATIVE TENSES

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1. What are Narrative Tenses?

When we tell a story about the past, we usually use four main tenses together:

Tense	Use in stories	Example
Past Simple	Main events (the "spine" of the story)	She opened the door and saw him.
Past Continuous	Background actions or longer actions	It was raining and people were running.
Past Perfect	An action that happened before another past action	When I arrived, they had already left.
Past Perfect Continuous	A longer action that was happening before a past moment	She had been waiting for two hours.

Tip:

Past Simple = what happened

Past Continuous = what was happening around it

Past Perfect = what had happened earlier

2. Quick Check – Choose the correct tense

1. When I _____ (arrive) at the party, everyone _____ (already / leave).
2. She _____ (walk) home when she _____ (see) the accident.
3. He was tired because he _____ (work) all day.
4. While we _____ (have) dinner, the lights _____ (go) out.
5. I _____ (never / see) such a beautiful place before I _____ (go) to Cape Town.

3. Match the sentence half with the correct ending

Beginning	Ending
1. I was cooking dinner	a) when the phone rang.
2. By the time we got to the cinema	b) the film had already started.
3. She was exhausted because	c) she had been studying all night.
4. He looked very happy	d) he had just received good news.
5. While they were waiting for the bus	e) it started to rain heavily.

Answers: 1-___ 2-___ 3-___ 4-___ 5-___

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Answer Key

2. Quick Check

1. arrived / had already left
2. was walking / saw
3. had been working
4. were having / went
5. had never seen / went

3. Match

1 – a
2 – b
3 – c
4 – d
5 – e

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