

Narrative Tenses

Teacher's Notes

Level: Intermediate

In this Narrative Tenses activity, students practise using Narrative Tenses, both alone and with a partner.

Aim: To practise Narrative Tenses through a variety of written and communicative exercises.

Procedure: Give each student a copy of the two-page activity sheet.

Exercise A: Students begin by identifying the tense written in bold in each sentence and writing its name in the space on the right. They then write the initials of the tenses in their descriptions below.

answer key:

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Past Simple | 2. Past Continuous | 3. Past Perfect | 4. Past Perfect Continuous |
| 5. PPC | 6. PS | 7. PP | 8. PC |

Exercise B: Next, students read the passage and circle the correct tense.

answer key:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. met | 6. felt |
| 2. was | 7. saw |
| 3. was waiting | 8. had been running |
| 4. had broken up | 9. was getting |
| 5. had been cheating | 10. had drunk |

Exercise C: Students then complete the sentences, putting the verbs in brackets in the correct Narrative Tense.

answer key:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. was having, rang | 2. was, had just bought | 3. had been crying, was |
| 4. was wearing, had just cut | 5. were, had been gardening | |

Exercise D: Students go on to match the sentence halves with the correct endings, choosing one of the verbs provided, and putting it in the correct Narrative Tense.

answer key:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. f, was | 6. e, had been running |
| 2. h, had already left | 7. i, was doing |
| 3. d, lit | 8. c, was wearing |
| 4. a, had dropped | 9. j, took off |
| 5. b, had kicked | 10. g, had been smoking |

Exercise E: i) Lastly, students work with a partner and complete the sentences about a year in history. They then chat and try and guess the year being described.

answer key:

year: 1989

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. became | 2. had been listening | 3. hadn't collapsed | 4. were wearing |
|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|

ii) The pairs then think of another year in history and, without saying what year it is, come up with four factual sentences about it, using suitable Narrative Tenses. Once they have completed their sentences, they split up and find another partner to read their sentences to and see if they can guess the year they are describing.