

Narrative Tenses

Activity Sheet (page 1/2)

A. Write the names of the four Narrative Tenses highlighted in bold next to each sentence.

1. I was hungry, so I **ate** a sandwich.
2. We **were eating** breakfast when you rang.
3. Sam felt sick because he **had eaten** too much cake.
4. Jim had lost weight as he **hadn't been eating** enough.

Complete the sentences, writing the initials of one of the Narrative Tenses mentioned above in each.

5. The is used to talk about actions in progress before another past action started.
6. The is used to talk about completed actions in the past.
7. The is used to talk about actions which occurred before another past action.
8. The is used to talk about actions in progress at a particular moment in the past.

B. Read the passage below and circle the correct Narrative Tense.

I'll never forget the first time I (1) *met / was meeting* my fiancé. It (2) *was / was being* a miserably cold morning and I (3) *waited / was waiting* for the bus, drinking a takeaway coffee. I was not in a good mood as I (4) *broke up / had broken up* with my boyfriend the day before, after finding out that he (5) *had cheated / had been cheating* on me for a year. Suddenly, I (6) *felt / was feeling* something hit me, and my coffee flew out of my hand. When I looked down, I (7) *saw / was seeing* a handsome man lying on the pavement in front of me. He (8) *had run / had been running* for his bus and had slipped on the ice. While he (9) *got / was getting* up, he offered to buy me another coffee, so we went to a nearby café and started talking. By the time we left the café five hours later, (10) *I drank / had drunk* 6 lattes and had fallen in love.

C. Complete the sentences, putting the verbs in brackets in the correct Narrative Tense.

1. I (have) a shower when the doorbell (ring)
2. Sam (be) broke because he (just / buy) a car.
3. Mary (cry) all night, so her face (be) red and puffy.
4. I (wear) a plaster as I (just / cut) my finger.
5. My hands (be) dirty because I (garden) all day.

D. Match the beginnings of the sentences with the correct endings, using one of the verbs below in the correct Narrative Tense.

run drop wear be smoke kick take off light already / leave do

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. I overslept last Monday, so | a. because I it on the floor. |
| 2. By the time we got to the station, | b. my brother me. |
| 3. The smoke alarm went off | c. she heels. |
| 4. My phone was broken | d. as soon as I my cigar. |
| 5. I had a bruise where | e. we for an hour. |
| 6. We were sweating because | f. I late for work. |
| 7. Sam called me while | g. as he |
| 8. Jill looked taller because | h. the train |
| 9. As soon as Mary got home, | i. I the dishes. |
| 10. Pete's breath smelt of nicotine, | j. she her coat. |

E. i) Working with a partner, complete the sentences below, using the correct Narrative Tense, then try and guess the year being described.

In the year: _____

1. George Bush Senior (become) president of the USA on January 20.
2. People (listen) to rock music for nearly 40 years.
3. The Soviet Union (not / collapse) yet.
4. Many women (wear) shoulder pads, bright colours, and big earrings.

ii) Working together, think of another year in history and create sentences about it using different Narrative Tenses. Do not say what year it is. Afterwards, pair up with someone from another group, read them your sentences, and see if they can guess the year.

1.
2.
3.
4.