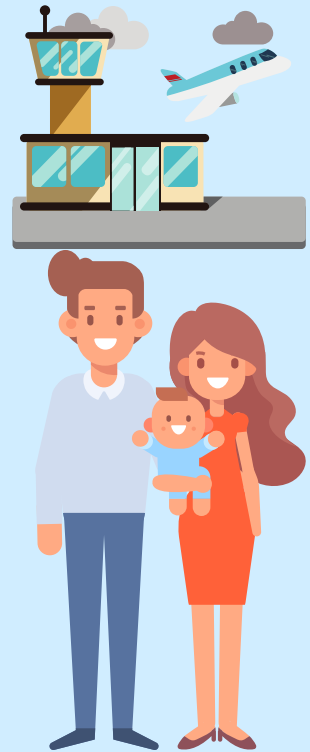


Narrative tenses explained with exercises PDF



1 Circle the correct verb form.

Claire and Max Wilson (1) got/ were getting a nasty surprise when they (2) had checked in / were checking in at Heathrow airport yesterday with their baby, Jason. They (3) had won/ won three free plane tickets to Bangkok in a competition, and they (4) were looking forward to / had been looking forward to their trip for months. But, unfortunately, they (5) had been forgetting/ had forgotten to get a passport for their son, so Jason couldn't fly. Luckily, they (6) had arrived/ were arriving very early for their flight, so they still had time to do something about it. They (7) had run/ ran to the police station in the airport to apply for an emergency passport. Claire (8) was going/ went with Jason to the photo booth, while Max (9) had filled in / was filling in the forms. The passport was ready in an hour, so they (10) hurried/ were hurrying to the gate, and (11) got/ had got on the plane just in time.



2 Put the verb in brackets in the past perfect simple (had done) or continuous (had been doing). If you think both are possible, use the continuous form.

- 1 His English was very good. He _____ it for five years, (learn)
- 2 I was really fed up because we _____ for hours, (queue)
- 3 She went to the police to report that someone _____ her bag. (steal)
- 4 It _____ all morning. The streets were wet, and there were puddles everywhere, (rain)
- 5 She got to work late because she _____ her phone at home and _____ go back and get it. (leave, have to)
- 6 I almost didn't recognize Tony at the party. He _____ a lot since I last saw him. (change)
- 7 The tourists' faces were very red. They _____ in the sun all morning and they _____ any sun cream, (sit, not put on)
- 8 I could see from their expressions that my parents _____ . (argue)
- 9 Jess had a bandage on her arm because she _____ off her bike that morning, (fall)
- 10 I was amazed because I _____ such an enormous plane before, (never see)
- 11 How long _____ you _____ before you realized that you were lost? (walk)

Narrative tenses explained with exercises PDF

Answer key



1 Circle the correct verb form.

Claire and Max Wilson (1) got were getting a nasty surprise when they (2) had checked in / were checking in at Heathrow airport yesterday with their baby, Jason. They (3) had won / won three free plane tickets to Bangkok in a competition, and they (4) were looking forward to / had been looking forward to their trip for months. But, unfortunately, they (5) had been forgetting / had forgotten to get a passport for their son, so Jason couldn't fly. Luckily, they (6) had arrived / were arriving very early for their flight, so they still had time to do something about it. They (7) had run / ran to the police station in the airport to apply for an emergency passport. Claire (8) was going / went with Jason to the photo booth, while Max (9) had filled in / was filling in the forms. The passport was ready in an hour, so they (10) hurried / were hurrying to the gate, and (11) got / had got on the plane just in time.



2 Put the verb in brackets in the past perfect simple (had done) or continuous (had been doing). If you think both are possible, use the continuous form.

- 1 His English was very good. He had been learning it for five years, (learn)
- 2 I was really fed up because we had been queuing for hours, (queue)
- 3 She went to the police to report that someone had stolen her bag. (steal)
- 4 It had been raining all morning. The streets were wet, and there were puddles everywhere, (rain)
- 5 She got to work late because she had left her phone at home and had had to go back and get it. (leave, have to)
- 6 I almost didn't recognize Tony at the party. He had changed a lot since I last saw him. (change)
- 7 The tourists' faces were very red. They had been sitting in the sun all morning and they hadn't put on any sun cream, (sit, not put on)
- 8 I could see from their expressions that my parents had been arguing. (argue)
- 9 Jess had a bandage on her arm because she had fallen off her bike that morning, (fall)
- 10 I was amazed because I had never seen such an enormous plane before, (never see)
- 11 How long had you been walking before you realized that you were lost? (walk)