

# 08 Narrative tenses

When telling a story, even if you're just talking about something that happened recently, you need to use a variety of tenses so that the story can be understood easily.

⚙️ **New language** The past perfect continuous

\_AA **Vocabulary** Travel adjectives and idioms

▶ **New skill** Talking about a variety of past actions

## 8.1 KEY LANGUAGE NARRATIVE TENSES

You can use different past tenses to show when past actions or states overlap, or to say which took place first.

### PAST SIMPLE

The past simple describes actions or states that happened in a specific finished time period.

A specific finished time period ("last summer") is specified, so the past simple is used.

**Last summer, we *flew* to London.  
There's so much to do there!**

### PAST CONTINUOUS

The past continuous describes an action that began before, and possibly continued after, another past action.

**While we *were walking* around the city,  
we *took* some photos in front of Big Ben.**

You often use the past simple and the past continuous together to say that one action interrupted a longer one.

### PAST PERFECT

The past perfect describes an action or state that happened before something else in the past.

This action happened before something else in the past (the trip abroad), so the past perfect is used.

**Fortunately, we *had looked up* all  
the best places to go beforehand.**



NOW





## 8.2 FILL IN THE GAPS BY PUTTING THE VERBS IN THE PAST SIMPLE OR PAST CONTINUOUS

We were flying (fly) over France when we saw (see) the Alps for the first time.

1 I walked down the road when someone asked me to take their photo.

2 Someone talked during the tour until we told them to be quiet.

3 I stopped twice to take photos while I drove through the country.

4 We decided to order some champagne while we ate lunch.

5 We were lost and our feet ached before we finally found a map shop.



### 8.3 COMPLETE THE SENTENCES USING THE PAST PERFECT, SPEAKING OUT LOUD

Our friend **told** us the city tour was great, so we went on it.

We went on the city tour because our friend had told us it was great.



1 We **walked** all around the city and my feet really ached by the end of the day.

My feet really ached by the end of the day because



2 We **spent** a long time planning the trip and it was perfect.

The trip was perfect because



3 We crossed over the wrong bridge and got completely lost.

We got completely lost because



4 Our tour guide **recommended** a great show, so we went to see it.

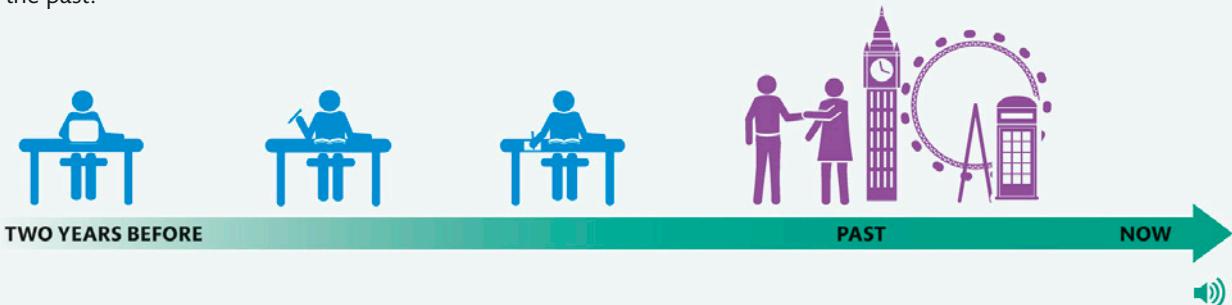
We went to see a great show because



## 8.4 KEY LANGUAGE THE PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

You use the past perfect continuous to describe an action or activity that was happening before another moment in the past.

**He had been learning English for two years before he went to London.**



## 8.5 HOW TO FORM THE PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS



## 8.6 FILL IN THE GAPS BY PUTTING THE VERBS INTO THE PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

They had been flying (fly) for ages, so she decided to walk around the aisles.

1 We waited (wait) for at least an hour when the taxi finally arrived.

2 I eventually went to the pharmacy because I hadn't been feeling (not feel) well for days.

3 We went to see the movie because they had been promoting (promote) it for months.

4 The streets were beautiful and white because it had been snowing (snow) all night.



## 8.7 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

Travel Underground is on TV on Fridays.

True  False  Not given

1 Travel Underground is a one-off documentary.

True  False  Not given

2 The city was rediscovered by accident.

True  False  Not given

3 Derinkuyu is Turkey's deepest underground city.

True  False  Not given

4 People used the city as a place to stay safe.

True  False  Not given

# What's on TV tonight?

Tonight, 9pm

This week, the Travel Underground series visits Turkey and tells the remarkable story of Derinkuyu in Cappadocia. Back in 1963, a resident had been knocking a wall down in his house, but stopped when something caught his eye. He decided to keep on digging, and it was soon obvious that he had discovered something incredible. This documentary charts the fascinating history of Derinkuyu, the deepest underground city in Turkey. Far below the surface, Derinkuyu had been a place of safety for many people for hundreds of years.



## 8.8 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MARK THE CORRECT SUMMARY

1 The Underground Cities tour lasts for one day.

You need to pack your own lunch, and you can't take too much luggage with you.

2 The tour lasts for two days, so you need to take

lots of luggage with you and an overnight bag. There is a traditional lunch included.

3 The tour takes place over two days. You get

a chance to explore by yourself, but you shouldn't take a lot of luggage.

4 The tour starts in the underground city, with a

lunch on the second day. It's just a short tour, so there's no need for an overnight bag.

Aa

## 8.9 MATCH THE DEFINITIONS TO THE PHRASES USED IN 8.8

make a decision on the spot

bright and early

1

very early in the morning

play it by ear

2

far from central or popular areas

travel light

3

take few things with you on a trip

off the beaten track

## 08 ✓ CHECKLIST

⚙ The past perfect continuous  Aa Travel adjectives and idioms  ⚗ Talking about a variety of past actions