



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.

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

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

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.





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 _____ (walk) down the road when someone _____ (ask) me to take their photo.
- 2 Someone _____ (talk) during the tour until we _____ (tell) them to be quiet.
- 3 I _____ (stop) twice to take photos while I _____ (drive) through the country.
- 4 We _____ (decide) to order some champagne while we _____ (eat) lunch.
- 5 We were lost and our feet _____ (ache) before we finally _____ (find) 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 _____ (wait) for at least an hour when the taxi finally arrived.
- ② I eventually went to the pharmacy because I _____ (not feel) well for days.
- ③ We went to see the movie because they _____ (promote) it for months.
- ④ The streets were beautiful and white because it _____ (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 ☐

TV GUIDE

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 ☐