

Textploitation

Narrative Tenses

How was your first day at school?

Describe it to your partner.

Larry's First Day

Larry left his house, the birds were singing in the trees, the sun was splitting the stones and there was a gentle breeze blowing against his face. It was the perfect day. He rubbed his stomach, he was happy because his mother had cooked him a full English breakfast. She'd set her alarm the night before and got up at 6:00 in the morning, an hour before him, just so she could cook it. She'd never done it before but it was a special day...today was his first day at his new company. Soon he'd be just another employee at the school but today he was nervous. He'd prepared for the interview for weeks and finally they'd rung him yesterday to tell him he'd got the job. He'd been delighted. It was the greatest school in the world and now that he was teaching there, it was even better...the lucky students.

Place the events from this story in order. Which ones happened first, second, third and so on? Use numbers 1 - 8:

He left his house.	
His mother set her alarm.	
His mum made his breakfast.	
He prepared for the interview.	1
He was delighted.	
They rang him to tell him he got the job.	
He got up.	
His mother got up.	

Examine the three sentences below and use them to complete the rules on the opposite page:

He opened the door, stepped outside and headed off to work. It was a beautiful day and the birds were singing in the trees. He hadn't seen such a beautiful day in all his life.

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Story Tenses (form):

Use the story to find examples of the tenses below and then complete their forms.

- Past continuous: _____ + _____
- Past perfect: _____ + _____

Story Tenses (use):

- The Past simple is used to describe the _____ actions in a story. An entire story can be told with just the _____ but it would be quite boring.
- The _____ can be added in to describe background actions occurring at the _____ time as the main action.
- The _____ is used to describe actions which happened before the main action or the entire _____.

(story / main / past simple x 2 / past perfect / same / past continuous)

Story Tenses (practice)

He _____ (take) a deep breath and _____ (open) up the door to the classroom. Inside the students _____ (chat) quietly amongst themselves.

“Hello,” he said as he entered. “My name is Lar...Mr. Davis. I’ll be your teacher for the rest of the month.”

The class _____ (go) silent and stared at him. His heart was beating loudly in his chest. He _____ (be) sure they could hear it and that made him more anxious. He _____ (be + never) so nervous in all his life. He swallowed loudly and then a student _____ (say), “Hi Mr. Davis. Nice to meet you. My name is Li Tung.”

All of his nerves _____ (vanish) and he _____ (stop) sweating immediately. He loved teaching and he was ready. Lucky students.

Vocabulary:

- 1) Verb: speaking informally –
- 2) Noun: the area of your body above your stomach –
- 3) Adjective: very nervous / worried –
- 4) Verb: when water appears under your arms because you are working hard or nervous –
- 5) Verb: moving water down your throat –
- 6) Verb: disappear –