

Narrative tenses

1 Choose the correct option, A, B or C.

- 1 It was a lovely day when Peter and Jessica __ to rent a canoe and row across the lake.
A decided **B** had decided **C** were deciding
- 2 Moments after they __ on an island, their canoe hit some rocks and started to fill up with water.
A arrived **B** had arrived **C** were arriving
- 3 Peter didn't have his phone because he __ it on the shore.
A left **B** had left **C** was leaving
- 4 So he swam to the shore to rent another canoe and rescue Jessica. But there weren't any boats because a group of Hungarian tourists __ them.
A rented **B** had rented **C** were renting
- 5 The tourists __ their holiday when one of them got a phone call asking them to help rescue Jessica.
A enjoyed **B** had enjoyed **C** were enjoying
- 6 Jessica was waiting for Peter when she __ a group of people in canoes.
A saw **B** had seen **C** was seeing
- 7 Why __ towards her? It seemed strange to Jessica. Then she understood: they had come to rescue her!
A did they row **B** were they rowing **C** had they rowed

2 Write the story using the prompts. Use the Past Simple, Past Continuous and Past Perfect Simple.

- 1 it / be / beautiful morning – sun / shine / and birds / sing

- 2 Tom / walk / to the park / when / see / Dave

- 3 he / not see / Dave / for a long time

- 4 they / go / café and / order / lunch

- 5 while / they / eat / Dave / suddenly / remember / something

- 6 he / leave / his wallet at home

- 7 Tom / pay / for lunch / and Dave / feel / bad

- 8 Tom / not care – he / be / happy to see his friend

3 Choose one of the topics below and write a short story. Remember to use narrative tenses and to begin by setting the scene.

- A day at the beach
- The last day of school
- The day I lost my phone

Answer key

1

1 A

2 B

3 B

4 B

5 C

6 A

7 B

2

1 It was a beautiful morning – the sun was shining and the birds were singing.

2 Tom was walking to the park when he saw Dave.

3 He hadn't seen Dave for a long time.

4 They went to a café and ordered lunch.

5 While they were eating, Dave suddenly remembered something.

6 He had left his wallet at home.

7 Tom paid for lunch and Dave felt bad.

8 Tom didn't care – he was happy to see his friend.

3

Model answer

The last day of school

It was the last day of school and I was looking forward to a long summer holiday. We didn't have any lessons, but we had to sit in our classroom. Our teacher asked us about the summer, so we told her our plans. Then the bell rang for break and we went outside. The older students at the school didn't look too happy and some of them were crying. I realised it was their last day ever at high school, and that they had just said goodbye to all their teachers. I wondered how I would feel in a few years' time and I began to feel sad too!