

Narrative Tenses (All Past Tenses) – Worksheet 1 – ANSWERS

Exercise 1: Conversation (Easier) – Fill in the Blanks with Correct Narrative Tense (Answers)

Jake: Hey Anna, why were you late to the party last night?

Anna: Oh, it was such a disaster! I **had left** work late because my boss **had asked** me to finish something urgent. ✓ (Past Perfect – "leaving" and "asking" happened before another past event.)

Jake: Oh no! So, what happened next?

Anna: While I **was walking** to the bus stop, I **realized** that I **had forgotten** my phone at the office. ✓ (Past Continuous for ongoing action; Past Simple for realization; Past Perfect for the earlier action of forgetting.)

Jake: That sounds terrible! Did you go back?

Anna: Yes! By the time I **got** back to the office, the security guard **had locked** the main entrance! ✓ (Past Simple for the later action; Past Perfect for the earlier action of locking.)

Jake: Oh no! So, what did you do?

Anna: I **called** my friend using a payphone, but while I **was waiting** for her, it **started** raining heavily! ✓ (Past Simple for the completed action; Past Continuous for the background action of waiting.)

Jake: Wow! That sounds like a really bad day!

Exercise 2: News Report (Easier) – Fill in the Blanks with Correct Narrative Tense (Answers)

Fire Breaks Out in Downtown Apartment

Yesterday evening, a fire **broke out** in a downtown apartment, causing panic among the residents. ✓ *(Past Simple for a completed past event.)*

At the time of the incident, many people **were relaxing** at home when they **heard** a loud explosion. ✓ *(Past Continuous for background action; Past Simple for the sudden event.)*

By the time the firefighters **arrived**, smoke **had filled** the building. ✓ *(Past Simple for the later action; Past Perfect for the earlier action of filling the building.)*

Some residents **had already escaped** by the time the emergency crews **got** there. ✓ *(Past Perfect for the completed escape before another past action.)*

One witness said she **was watching** TV when she **noticed** the smell of smoke. ✓ *(Past Continuous for the background activity; Past Simple for the sudden realization.)*

Firefighters reported that the fire **had started** in the kitchen of one apartment, where the owner **had left** the stove on for too long. ✓ *(Past Perfect to show the fire and leaving the stove happened before the firefighters' report.)*