

# Narrative tenses question cards

1

Before I *was starting / started / have started* my present job, I *was working / worked* for a bank for two years.

Before I started my present job, I worked...

2

They *waited / were waiting* until everyone *had left / was leaving* the bank and then *broke in / were breaking in*.

They waited until everyone had left the bank and then broke in.

3

When the helicopter finally (find) us, we (sit) in the lifeboat for hours and (eat) all our food.

When the helicopter finally found us, we had been sitting in the lifeboat for hours and had eaten all our food.

4

I *met / have met* her when we *were / had been* at school together.

I met her when we were at school together.

5

Correct this sentence: As soon as she was seeing the time, she was jumping out of bed.

As soon as she saw the time, she jumped out of bed.

6

When we *got / were getting* to the party, everyone *danced and drank / was dancing and drinking*.

When we got to the party everyone was dancing and drinking.

7

I couldn't see anything as I *lost / had lost* my glasses.

I couldn't see anything as I had lost my glasses.

8

Correct this sentence: By the time our food arrived, we waited half an hour.

By the time our food arrived, we had been waiting half an hour.

9

Correct this sentence: By the time the emergency supplies arrived, thirty people had been dying.

By the time the emergency supplies arrived, thirty people had died.

10

Correct this sentence: The roads were very slippery as it rained all morning.

The roads were very slippery as it had been raining all morning.

11

I was so late that by the time I got there, all the food *had eaten / was eaten / had been eaten*.

...all the food had been eaten.

12

He was covered in blood and (tear) his jacket. It was clear he (fight) again.

He was covered in blood and had torn his jacket. It was clear he had been fighting again.

13

Correct this sentence: When I was a small child, we had lived in a house in the country.

When I was a small child, we lived in a house in the country.

14

Correct this sentence: When I had got to the office, my boss had been leaving.

When I got to the office, my boss left / was leaving / had (already) left.

15

Correct this sentence: She'd been writing twenty letters, so she was tired.

She'd written twenty letters, so she was tired.

16

The kitchen was a mess as I *was cooking / had cooked / had been cooking* all day.

...as I had been cooking all day.

17

Before I *left / had left* home, I *called / had called* the office.

Before I left home, I called the office.

18

Correct this sentence: After I graduated, I was living in London for ten years.

After I graduated, I lived in London for ten years.

19

When we *got / were getting* to the cinema, the film *started / was starting / had started*, so we missed the beginning.

When we got to the cinema, the film had started...

20

When I *was / had been* sure I *finished / had finished* everything, I *left / had left* the office.

When I was sure I had finished everything, I left the office.

21

We (drive) for about ten minutes when we (notice) smoke coming from the engine.

We had been driving for about ten minutes when we noticed smoke coming from the engine.

22

I (have) breakfast and (listen) to the news when the phone (ring).

I was having breakfast and listening to the news when the phone rang.

23

As soon as she (get) home, she (make) herself a sandwich.

As soon as she got home, she made herself a sandwich.

24

Correct this sentence: When she ate her sandwich, she went to bed.

When she had eaten her sandwich, she went to bed.