

17th June 2024
 Language – Past Perfect Simple

Look at this anecdote:

Last week, I **had** an accident. I **was walking** to work when I **slipped** on the pavement and **fell** over. I **got** up and **continued** walking but my foot **felt** strange. Then, I **looked** down and **realised** that I **had twisted** my ankle. So, I **sat** down on a bench and **called** my friend. When she **arrived**, I **was lying** on the bench and I **had taken** off my shoe. After that, she **decided** to take me to the hospital.

What tenses are used in this story?

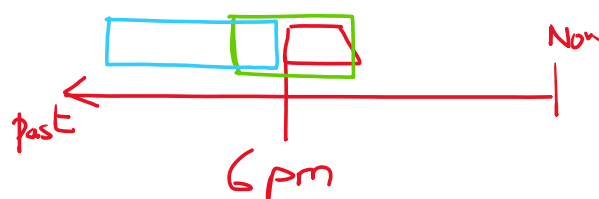
Why?

Narrative Tenses

Tense	Usage
Past simple – second form (slipped / fell / continued / felt)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To talk about consecutive actions – one after the other Most common tense for past actions/states
Past continuous – was/were + verb + ing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To talk about actions happening simultaneously (at the same time as other actions) Longer actions To ‘set the scene’ for a story
Past perfect simple – had + third form (past participle)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To talk about ‘the past of the past’ To indicate one action happened before another action in the past

When did I start and finish dinner?

- I ate dinner at 6pm.
I started at about 6pm and finished after.
- I was eating dinner at 6pm.
I started before 6pm and finished after.
- I had eaten dinner by 6pm.
I started and finished before 6pm.



Which action happened **first**?

Which action happened **second**?

1. After I **had taken** the children to school, I **went** to work.
2. Before **he went** home, **he had visited** his mother.
3. By the time I **arrived** at the party, **everybody had gone** home.

Complete with the past simple, past continuous, or past perfect.

1. The accident _____ when they _____ home. (happen, drive)
2. The crowd _____ when the referee _____ the final whistle. (cheer, blow)
3. I _____ her at first because she _____ so much. (not recognize, change)
4. The police _____ her on the motorway because she _____ a seat belt. (stop, not wear)
5. Some of the players _____ while the coach _____ to them. (not listen, talk)
6. We _____ use the ski slope because it _____ enough. (not can, not snow)
7. They _____ play tennis because they _____ a court. (not able to, not book)
8. The player _____ a yellow card because he _____ his shirt. (get, take off)