

B1+ Grammar Summary: Week 7

Narrative Tenses

Narrative tenses are used to talk about past events, especially in stories, descriptions, and past experiences.

Past Simple

Is used to describe completed actions in the past, often in a sequence.

Form: **Verb + -ed** (regular) / Irregular verbs (e.g., went, saw, spoke)

Negative: **didn't + infinitive**

*I **heard** a noise and **turned** around to look.*

*She **didn't see** the hole, so she **tripped** and fell.*

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Past Continuous

Is used to describe:

- A longer action in progress at a specific time in the past.

*It **was raining** outside.*

- Background information in a story.

*She **was filming** in Sumatra when the earthquake happened.*

- An unfinished action interrupted by another event.

*I **was walking** down the street when I heard a noise.*

Form: **was/were + verb-ing**

Negative: **wasn't/weren't + verb-ing**

He **was driving** along the country lane when the engine **stopped**.

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Past Perfect

Is used to show that one past action happened before another past action.

Often used with: *already, just, before, previously*

Form: had + past participle

Negative: hadn't + past participle

*I **turned** around to look, but I **didn't** see the noise because it **had already stopped**.*

*By the time I **got** there, the kitchen **had already caught** fire.*

*I **knew** a lot of people in the music industry because I **had previously been** in a band.*

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Key Points to Remember

- Use past simple for a sequence of completed actions.
- Use past continuous for background actions or ongoing events.
- Use past perfect to show what happened before another past action.

DEFINING RELATIVE CLAUSES

We use relative clauses to add information after nouns. We use relative pronouns (who, which, that, etc.) to start the clause

depending on the nouns we are adding information to or on the information that follows.

To add information about *people*, we use a clause beginning with **that** or **who**.

*She's the woman **that** spoke to me earlier.*

*Roentgen was the scientist **who** discovered radiation.*

To add information about *things*, we use a clause beginning with **that** or **which**.

*She wrote a book **that** was a huge best-seller.*

*It's a government scheme **which** helps unemployed people.*

To add information about *times*, we use a clause beginning with **when** or **that**.

*I remember the day **when** Princess Diana died very clearly.*

*At the time **that** he was writing, there was a war going on.*

*That's **when** I realised I'd made a mistake.*

To add information about *possessions*, we use a clause beginning with **whose**.

*That's the couple **whose** child won the competition.*

*He made a film **whose** main character becomes the US President by accident.*

To add information about places, we use a clause beginning with **where** we don't include the preposition.

*That's the hospital **where** I was born!*

What's the name of that bar **where** you went for your birthday?

OR we can use a clause beginning with **that / which** + **preposition**.

That's the hospital **that / which** I was born **in**.

What's the name of that bar **that / which** you went **to** for your birthday?

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