Unit 16 · Narrating Past Events

HARDER PRACTICE QUESTIONS · ANSWER KEY

Full marks 25

Give the marks for the points in the marking scheme; an answer in other words that says the same is right.

1 Where were you when the jar fell?

HA · 6

ANSWER

Tests: the past continuous after *When X happened* places the speaker at that moment (the bar); the past simple says what came next (the dot); the past perfect says it was over before he came; *What were you doing…?* asks for the bar, so an answer with the dot doesn't answer it.

a. **Dolma** was in the kitchen (she was standing on a stool by the shelf). **Rehan** was somewhere else, in the yard. **Prapti** and **Sangam** don't say where they were. Prapti tells what she did **after** the jar fell (she ran in, so she wasn't in the kitchen at that moment); Sangam tells that he arrived **after** it had fallen. (The tempting answer is that Prapti was in the kitchen.)

b. Hajurama asked what was **going on** at four (*What were you doing…?*). Prapti answered with what she did **next** (*ran*, one short action). ***When the jar fell, I was doing my homework on the roof. I heard the crash and ran down to the kitchen.***

c. **No.** *When I got to the kitchen, the jar fell* would say the jar fell **just as** he came in, or just after: he was **there** when it fell, and he might even have knocked it. *Had already fallen* says it fell **before** he came, so he can't have done it.

d. **Dolma**: she was the only one in the kitchen, right beside the shelf, and she was reaching up for the tin at that moment. ***Dolma knocked the jar off while she was reaching for the biscuit tin.*** (or *The jar fell while Dolma was reaching for the biscuit tin.*)

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. Dolma in the kitchen, Rehan in the yard.
- ✓ a. Prapti and Sangam: they tell what they did after, or that they came after.
- ✓ b. She told what she did next, not what was going on at four.
- ✓ b. *I was doing my homework on the roof*, then *ran* (or another past simple) for what she did next.
- ✓ c. No: that sentence would put him in the kitchen as it fell.
- ✓ d. Dolma, because she was beside the shelf reaching up, in a correct *while* sentence.

2 Two tellers, one evening

ANSWER

Tests: where a story starts decides which events need the past perfect (an event told after a later one, out of its time order); told in order, every event is the past simple; *by the time* + the past perfect for something already over; the past continuous for what was going on at a moment.

a. The **tourists' arrival** (it happened before the story starts). ***Half an hour earlier, a large group of tourists had come in.*** (*Half an hour earlier, a large group of tourists came in* is good English too: the time words show the order.)

b. A model: ***At seven, a large group of tourists came in, and we could hardly cope. Half an hour later, a man who often eats with us arrived with his friends, but every table was taken. At a quarter to eight, the people at the corner table left, and his friends sat down.*** **No**, he doesn't need *had*. He tells the evening **in the order it happened**, so each event is simply the next one: the past simple. The writer starts at 7:30, so when he tells the tourists' arrival, he goes **back** to something earlier than the point he has reached: the past perfect. (The tempting answer is that the earliest event always takes *had*.)

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c. ***By the time the waiter took our order, the tourists had eaten all the meat and fish.*** (or *had ordered* it all: the tourists' eating was over before 8:40) HA · 6

d. ***They were serving the tourists*** (or *were busy with the tourists*, *were carrying food to the tourists*).

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. The tourists' arrival.
- ✓ a. A correct sentence telling it (*had come in*, or *came in* with *earlier*).
- ✓ b. Three sentences in order, in the past simple.
- ✓ b. No *had*: he tells it in order; the writer goes back from 7:30.
- ✓ c. *had eaten* (or *had ordered*, *had finished*) after *By the time*.
- ✓ d. The other waiters busy with the tourists (*were serving*, or *were busy with*).

3 Told fourth, happened first

ANSWER HA · 5

Tests: the order of telling against the order of happening (a flashback answers a question the story has just asked, so it comes where the question is); the clues that fix an order (*So*, *there*, *the canteen didi* … *the didi*); direct speech keeps its own time, so the speaker uses the past simple from her own now.

a. **E, B, G, D, A, F, C.** Clues: *there* in B points back to *her pocket* in E; *when she had last opened that pocket* (G) is answered by D; *So* in A needs a reason before it (D: the canteen); *the didi* in F has already been introduced in A; *thanked her* in C comes after the didi speaks.

b. The story starts when Bhumika **finds the pass is missing**, on Friday evening. D answers the question she asks herself in G (*when had she last opened that pocket?*), so it is told at that point, out of its time order. The word ***had*** (*had shown, had taken*) shows that it happened before the evening. (The tempting answer puts D first because it happened first.)

c. **Not a mistake.** These are the didi's own words, said on Friday evening. For her, the dropping is simply something that happened earlier that day, so she uses the past simple, as anyone does when talking about the past. *Had* is for the storyteller, looking back from a point in the past.

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. E, B, G, D, A, F, C.
- ✓ a. Two real clues named (*there*, *So*, *the didi*, *that pocket*…).
- ✓ b. The story starts on Friday evening; D answers G's question, so it is told there.
- ✓ b. *had* shows it happened earlier.
- ✓ c. Not a mistake: her own words, from her own time, in the past simple.

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4 Too much -ing

ANSWER A · 5

Tests: the past continuous only for the background, what was going on when the story's events happened; each event, one after another, in the past simple; *while* with the long action; *suddenly* marks a short event.

a. ***was raining***, ***was blowing*** and ***was walking*** are right: they were **going on** when the branch fell, the background of the story. The rest are events, one after another, so they take the past simple: *Suddenly a big branch **fell** across the path in front of me. I **jumped** back. Then I **called** my father, and he **came** with his torch. We **moved** the branch together.*

b. ***While I was walking home from school, a big branch fell across the path in front of me.***

c. *Suddenly* means it happened in a moment, all at once: a short, finished action that cuts into the background, so the **past simple** (*fell*).

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ a. The three background verbs kept.
- ✓ a. *fell*, *jumped* and *called*.
- ✓ a. *came* and *moved*.
- ✓ b. *While I was walking..., a branch fell...* (or the same with *fell* first).
- ✓ c. A sudden, short action takes the past simple.

5 Start in the middle

ANSWER HA · 3

Tests: the three tenses chosen by where the telling starts: what was going on at that moment (the past continuous), what was over before it (the past perfect), what came next (the past simple).

A model: ***When my father arrived with his torch, it was still raining and I was standing beside a big branch. It had fallen across the path in front of me; I had jumped back just in time and called him. We moved the branch together.***

(The tempting answer keeps the first telling's past simple for the fall: *A big branch fell across the path* told after *my father arrived* now reads as if it fell after he came.)

MARKING SCHEME

- ✓ The past continuous for what was going on when he arrived (*was raining*, *was standing*, *was waiting*).
- ✓ The past perfect for the fall (and the jump or the call) told after his arrival.
- ✓ The past simple for what came next (*We moved the branch*).

Marks by level	Knowledge	Understanding	Application	Higher ability	Total
Marks	0	0	5	20	**25**

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