

3A GRAMMAR narrative tenses

a Read the first part of the story and find examples of each tense below.

- 1 the past perfect *had finished* _____
- 2 the past perfect continuous _____
- 3 the past continuous _____

The most embarrassing moment of my life (Richard, Sussex)

Part 1

When I was about nine years old I used to go to the cinema every Saturday morning – in those days it was very popular. After the film had finished, I would go to a toy shop and look at model planes and trains, and sometimes I bought them with the pocket money that I had been carefully saving. One day after the film, I went to a big department store to have a look at the model planes they had. I didn't buy anything, but as I was leaving a very large man grabbed my arm quite violently and accused me of shoplifting.

The man said that he was a store detective. As I had been concentrating on the toys, I hadn't noticed that he had been watching me. He made me empty my pockets and he went through my coat, searching for stolen goods, even though I told him very clearly that I had only been looking. Of course he didn't find anything, but by this time several people had stopped to see what was happening. I felt very embarrassed and humiliated that so many people were looking at me, and I was very glad to leave the shop when it was all over.



b Complete the second part of the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets: past simple, past continuous, past perfect, or past perfect continuous.

Part 2

An hour or so later, when I ¹ *was having* (have) lunch with my family at home, my father ² _____ (ask) me about the film. I then ³ _____ (mention) that I ⁴ _____ (look) at toys in a department store when a store detective ⁵ _____ (accuse) me of shoplifting and ⁶ _____ (search) me in the middle of the shop. My father ⁷ _____ (make) me repeat what I ⁸ _____ (say), and then immediately ⁹ _____ (jump up) from the table. Without either of us having finished our lunch, he ¹⁰ _____ (make) me get into the car. I ¹¹ _____ (never see) my father so angry! He ¹² _____ (drive) quickly to the store, ¹³ _____ (park) outside, and took me to where the incident ¹⁴ _____ (take place). He then demanded to see the manager and the



store detective. When the manager ¹⁵ _____ (come), my father ¹⁶ _____ (start) shouting at him and he told him that I ¹⁷ _____ (never steal) anything in my life. He ¹⁸ _____ (make) the manager and store detective apologize to me for having accused me of shoplifting and for embarrassing me. But the thing is, I ¹⁹ _____ (find) this scene even more embarrassing than the first one, especially as I could see that a lot of customers ²⁰ _____ (stop) and ²¹ _____ (watch) us!

activation

c Work with a partner.

Student A: Cover the text. Try to remember what happened to Richard in Part 1.

Student B: Cover the text. Try to remember what happened to Richard in Part 2.

KEY

3A narrative tenses

- a** 1 hadn't noticed, had stopped
2 had been (carefully) saving, had been concentrating,
had been watching, had (only) been looking
3 was leaving, was happening, were looking
- b** 2 asked 3 mentioned 4 had been looking
5 had accused / accused 6 had searched / searched
7 made 8 had said 9 jumped up 10 made
11 had never seen 12 drove 13 parked
14 had taken place 15 came 16 started
17 had never stolen 18 made 19 found
20 had stopped 21 were watching