



# Learn English Through Stories

T Series

T7

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<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

## **Contents**

**Past time 1.  
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## Past Time 1

### 1. Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

- a) When you passed the town hall clock, *did you notice* / *were you noticing* what time it was?
- b) Last night my neighbours *were shouting* / *would shout* for hours and I couldn't get to sleep.
- c) When you lived in London, *did you use to travel* / *were you travelling* by bus?
- d) Everyone was having a good time, although not many people *danced* / *were dancing*.
- e) Jill was really hungry because she *didn't eat* / *hadn't eaten* all day.
- f) Before we went to the theatre, we *called in* / *had called in* at George's cafe for a pizza.
- g) It took a while for me to notice, but then I did. Everyone *stared* / *was staring* at me. What had I done wrong?
- h) Nobody bothered to tell me that the school *decided* / *had decided* to have a special holiday on Friday.
- i) I *was trying* / *tried* to get in touch with you all day yesterday. Where were you?
- j) A: Excuse me, but this seat is mine.
- B: I'm sorry, I *didn't realise* / *hadn't realised* that you were sitting here.

## 2. Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

- a) *Once* / *Afterwards* I'd read the manual, I found I could use the computer easily.
- b) It was more than a month *before* / *until* I realised what had happened.
- c) I managed to talk to Carol just *as* / *while* she was leaving.
- d) It wasn't *until* / *up to* 1983 that Nigel could afford to take holidays abroad.
- e) George always let me know *by the time* / *whenever* he was going to be late.
- f) I was having a bath *at the time* / *that time*, so I didn't hear the doorbell.
- g) We bought our tickets and five minutes *after* / *later* the train arrived.
- h) According to Grandpa, people used to dress formally *those days* / *in his day*.
- i) Everyone was talking but stopped *at that time* / *the moment* Mr Smith arrived,
- j) The letter still hadn't arrived *by* / *until* the end of the week.

## 3. Decide if the verb form underlined is correct or not. If it is correct, write a tick. If not, correct it.

**Text 1:** The train (1) ground to a halt at a small station miles from London, and it (2) became apparent that the engine (3) had broken down. Everyone (4) was getting their cases down from the luggage racks, and we (5) were waiting on the platform in the freezing wind for hours until the next train (6) was turning up.

**Text 2:** The mysterious disappearance of Professor Dawson (1) was on Inspector Gorse's mind. Six months before the Professor's disappearance, he (2) was receiving a letter from Jean Dawson, the Professor's wife. In the letter, Jean (3) accused her husband of plotting to murder her. Gorse (4) considered what his next step should be when the phone rang. It was Sergeant Adams from the Thames Valley police force. A fisherman (5) discovered a body in the River Thames, and it (6) fitted the description of the Professor.

**4. Put each verb in brackets into a suitable past verb form.**

This time last year I (1) ..... (cycle) in the rain along a country road in France with a friend of mine. We (2) ..... (decide) to go on a cycling holiday in Normandy. Neither of us (3) ..... (be) to France before, but we (4) ..... (know) some French from our time at school and we (5) ..... (manage) to brush up on the basics. Now we (6) ..... (wonder) if we (7) ..... (make) the right decision. We (8) ..... (plan) our route carefully in advance, but we (9) ..... (forget) one important thing, the weather. It (10) ..... (rain) solidly since our arrival and that night we (11) ..... (end up) sleeping in the waiting room at a railway station. Then the next morning as we (12) ..... (ride) down a steep hill my bike (13) ..... (skid) on the wet road and I (14) ..... (fall off). I (15) ..... (realise) immediately that I (16) ..... (break) my arm, and after a visit to the local hospital I (17) ..... (catch) the next train to Calais for the ferry home. Unfortunately my parents (18) ..... (not/expect) me home for a fortnight, and (19) ..... (go) away on holiday. So I (20) ..... (spend) a miserable couple of weeks alone, reading 'Teach Yourself French'.

**5. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.**

a) I intended to call you yesterday, but I forgot.

**going**

I ..... call you yesterday, but I forgot.

b) Sylvia asked if I wanted more pudding, but I said I couldn't eat any more.

**had**

When Sylvia offered ..... enough.

c) Owing to illness, Sally was unable to sing the solo, as arranged.

**have**

Sally was ..... but she fell ill.

d) Diana wasn't always as rude as that.

**be**

Diana ..... rude.

e) We've changed our minds about going to Rome, as originally intended.

**intending**

We ..... we've changed our minds.

f) When I lived in London, cycling to work was part of my daily routine.

**used**

When I lived in London I ..... day.

g) I might possibly go to the theatre tonight.

**wondering**

I ..... going to the theatre tonight.

h) I had to go past your house so I decided to drop in.

**passing**

I ..... so I decided to drop in.

i) About 100 people were waiting for the late bus.

**arrived**

By ..... about 100 people waiting.

j) What were you doing at the moment of the explosion?

**occurred**

When ..... what were you doing?

**6. In each sentence decide whether one, or both, of the alternative verb forms given are appropriate. Write O for one or B for both.**

- a) In those days, I always *used to get up* / *got up* early in the morning. ....
- b) When I got to the cinema Jack *had been waiting* / *was waiting* for me. ....
- c) We *would always have* / *were always having* breakfast in bed on Sundays. ..
- d) Mary *was always falling* / *always fell* ill before important examinations. ...
- e) My sister *used to own* / *would own* a motorcycle and sidecar. ....
- f) Pay no attention to Dave's remarks. He *wasn't meaning* / *didn't mean* it. ...
- g) I felt awful after lunch. *I ate* / *had eaten* too much. ....
- h) Brenda *left* / *had left* before I had time to talk to her. ....
- i) The explanation was simple. In 1781 HMS Sovereign, on her way back from India, *had sighted* / *sighted* an empty boat drifting off the African coast ...
- j) Pauline has changed a lot. She *didn't always use to look* / *wasn't always looking* like that. ....

**7. Complete the text by writing one word in each space.**

When I was a young man I spent a year in France, studying French at the University of Grenoble. Every Friday I (1) ..... eat at the Aps cafe. I didn't (2) ..... to spend much money, as I (3) ..... not afford it, but it was a little tradition of mine to eat there. Anyway, I'm going to tell you a true story which happened on one occasion when I (4) ..... eating there. I remember I was having a pasta dish at (5) ..... time. A beautiful girl came up to me and said, 'I was (6) ..... if you wanted to walk with me in the park?' I had never seen her (7) ..... , so I was rather taken aback. I was (8) ..... to go with her when I noticed a tough-looking man was watching our every movement. (9) ..... my discomfort, the girl whispered to me, in English, 'Park - five minutes!', and then disappeared. Well, my bill (10) ..... ages to arrive, and by the time I (11) ..... to the park, there was no sign of the girl. I asked an old lady (12) ..... was sitting there if she (13) ..... seen a young girl waiting around. I described the girl to her. The old lady said that the girl (14) ..... had to rush to the railway station, and that I (15) ..... to follow her there urgently. She had also left me a note. It said, 'I will explain everything. Meet me on platform 6.'

**8. Put each verb in brackets into a suitable past verb form.**

- a) I realised that someone ..... (steal) my wallet when I ..... (feel) their hand in my jacket pocket.
- b) When I ..... (phone) Helen last night she ..... (wash) her hair.
- c) Peter ..... (offer) me another drink but I decided I ..... (had) enough.
- d) Nobody ..... (watch), so the little boy ..... (take) the packet of sweets from the shelf and ..... (put) it in his pocket.
- e) I ..... (not/realise) that I ..... (leave) my umbrella on the bus until it ..... (start) to rain.
- f) At school I ..... (dislike) the maths teacher because he ..... (always/pick) on me.
- g) Wherever Marion ..... (find) a job, there was someone who ..... (know) that she (go) to prison.
- h) Several years later I ..... (find out) that during all the time I ..... (write) to my pen friend, my mother ..... (open) and reading the replies!
- i) I ..... (not/understand) what ..... (go on). Several people ..... (shout) at me, and one passer-by ..... (wave) a newspaper in front of my face.
- j) I ..... (know) I ..... (do) well in my exams even before I ..... (receive) the official results.



## Answers

### 1. Underline the correct word or phrase in each sentence.

- a) When you passed the town hall clock, *did you notice* what time it was?
- b) Last night my neighbours *were shouting* for hours and I couldn't get to sleep.
- c) When you lived in London, *did you use to travel* by bus?
- d) Everyone was having a good time, although not many people *were dancing*.
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- g) It took a while for me to notice, but then I did. Everyone *was staring* at me. What had I done wrong?
- h) Nobody bothered to tell me that the school *had decided* to have a special holiday on Friday.
- i) I *was trying* to get in touch with you all day yesterday. Where were you?
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- f) I was having a bath at the time, so I didn't hear the doorbell.  
Or: I was having a bath at that time, so I didn't hear the doorbell.
- g) We bought our tickets and five minutes later the train arrived.
- h) According to Grandpa, people used to dress formally in his day.
- i) Everyone was talking but stopped at the moment Mr Smith arrived,
- j) The letter still hadn't arrived by the end of the week.

## 3. Decide if the verb form underlined is correct or not. If it is correct, write a tick. If not, correct it. Green correct and red corrected.

**Text 1:** The train ground to a halt at a small station miles from London, and it became apparent that the engine had broken down. Everyone got their cases down from the luggage racks, and we waited on the platform in the freezing wind for hours until the next train turned up.

**Text 2:** The mysterious disappearance of Professor Dawson was on Inspector Gorse's mind. Six months before the Professor's disappearance, he received / had received a letter from Jean Dawson, the Professor's wife. In the letter, Jean accused her husband of plotting to murder her. Gorse was considering what his next step should be when the phone rang. It was Sergeant Adams from the Thames Valley police force. A fisherman had discovered a body in the River Thames, and it fitted the description of the Professor.

Note: Ground is past tense of grind.

#### 4. Put each verb in brackets into a suitable past verb form.

This time last year I **was cycling** in the rain along a country road in France with a friend of mine. We **had decided** to go on a cycling holiday in Normandy. Neither of us **had been** to France before, but we **knew** some French from our time at school and we **had managed** to brush up on the basics. Now we **were wondering** if we **had made** the right decision. We **had planned** our route carefully in advance, but we **had forgotten** one important thing, the weather. It **had rained / had been raining** solidly since our arrival and that night we **ended up** sleeping in the waiting room at a railway station. Then the next morning as we **were riding / rode** down a steep hill my bike **skidded** on the wet road and I **fell off**. I **realised** immediately that I **had broken** my arm, and after a visit to the local hospital I **caught** the next train to Calais for the ferry home. Unfortunately my parents **were not expecting / did not expect** me home for a fortnight, and **had gone** away on holiday. So I **spent** a miserable couple of weeks alone, reading 'Teach Yourself French'.

**5. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.**

a) I intended to call you yesterday, but I forgot.

**going**

I **was going to** call you yesterday, but I forgot.

b) Sylvia asked if I wanted more pudding, but I said I couldn't eat any more.

**had**

When Sylvia offered **more pudding** I **said I had had** enough.

c) Owing to illness, Sally was unable to sing the solo, as arranged.

**have**

Sally was **to have sung the solo** but she fell ill.

d) Diana wasn't always as rude as that.

**be**

Diana **did not use to be that** rude.

e) We've changed our minds about going to Rome, as originally intended.

**intending**

We **were intending to go to Rome but** we've changed our minds.

f) When I lived in London, cycling to work was part of my daily routine.

**used**

When I lived in London I **used to cycle to work every** day.

g) I might possibly go to the theatre tonight.

**wondering**

I **was wondering about** going to the theatre tonight.

h) I had to go past your house so I decided to drop in.

**passing**

I **was passing your house** so I decided to drop in.

i) About 100 people were waiting for the late bus.

**arrived**

By **the time bus arrived there were** about 100 people waiting.

j) What were you doing at the moment of the explosion?

**occurred**

When **the explosion occurred** what were you doing?

6. In each sentence decide whether one, or both, of the alternative verb forms given are appropriate. Write O for one or B for both.

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