

3A GRAMMAR narrative tenses: past simple, past continuous, past perfect, past perfect continuous

a Read Part 1 of Richard's story and find examples of each tense below.

1 the past perfect	<u>had finished</u>	<u>hadn't notice</u>	<u>had stopped</u>	
2 the past perfect continuous	<u>had been carefully saving</u>	<u>had been concentrating</u>	<u>had been watching</u>	<u>had only been looking</u>
3 the past continuous	<u>was leaving</u>	<u>was happening</u>	<u>were looking</u>	<u>went through my coat, searching</u>

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 Part 2 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 asked (ask) me about the film. I then ³ mentioned (mention) that I ⁴ had been looking (look) at toys in a department store when a store detective ⁵ had accused (accuse) me of shoplifting and ⁶ searched (search) me in the middle of the shop. My father ⁷ made (make) me repeat what I ⁸ had said (say), and then immediately ⁹ jumped up (jump up) from the table. Without either of us having finished our lunch, he ¹⁰ made (make) me get into the car. I ¹¹ had never seen (never see) my father look so angry! He ¹² drove (drive) quickly to the store, ¹³ parked (park) outside, and took me to where the incident ¹⁴ had taken place (take place). He then



demanded to see the manager and the store detective. When the manager ¹⁵ came (come), my father ¹⁶ started (start) shouting at him and he told him that I ¹⁷ had never stolen (never steal) anything in my life. He ¹⁸ made (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 found (find) this scene even more embarrassing than the first one, especially as I could see that a lot of customers ²⁰ had stopped (stop) and ²¹ were watching (watch) us!

ACTIVATION

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.