

What is Advanced Narrative and Description?

Worksheet

Advanced narrative uses imparfait and passé composé together, employs rich descriptive vocabulary, and employs tense shifts to build mood and emphasis in French prose.

Questions

1. Which pair best shows advanced narrative technique?
A) Il courait vite.
B) La forêt était silencieuse quand il a entendu un cri perçant.
C) Elle marche.
D) Ils mangent.
2. What does 'sensory language' in description include?
A) Only visual details
B) Only verbs
C) Descriptions of sight, sound, smell, taste, touch
D) Only adjectives
3. When should you use plus-que-parfait?
A) For recent past events
B) For actions that happened before the main past action
C) For present actions
D) For future plans
4. Which technique is NOT part of advanced narrative?
A) Foreshadowing
B) Symbolism
C) Listing random nouns
D) Structural parallel
5. Translate: 'The old woman was sitting by the window when she heard the knock at the door.'
6. Create a description using all five senses: A market scene
7. Describe a tense moment using tense shifts to build suspense.
8. Define: What tense shows background or ongoing action?
9. Define: Which tense marks a completed, specific action?
10. Define: Name three sensory adjectives in French.

Answer Key

1. B) La forêt était silencieuse quand il a entendu un cri perçant. — This uses imparfait (background), passé composé (action), sensory language (perçant), and creates mood.
2. C) Descriptions of sight, sound, smell, taste, touch — Advanced description engages all five senses to make prose vivid and immersive.
3. B) For actions that happened before the main past action — Plus-que-parfait ('had done') shows what happened before the passé composé events.
4. C) Listing random nouns — Random listing lacks purpose; real narrative uses deliberate literary devices.
5. Use imparfait for background state: La vieille femme était assise près de la fenêtre Switch to passé composé for the action: quand elle a entendu le coup à la porte. Full: 'La vieille femme était assise près de la fenêtre quand elle a entendu le coup à la porte.'
6. Sight: Les couleurs vives des fruits étalés Sound: Le bruit des marchands qui crient Smell: L'odeur des herbes fraîches Taste: Le goût sucré des fraises Touch: La texture rugueuse du tissu
7. Background: Il marchait lentement dans la rue sombre (imparfait) Intense moment: Soudain, quelqu'un l'a appelé (passé composé) Reflection: Il avait oublié son rendez-vous (plus-que-parfait)
8. Imparfait — sets the scene and context.
9. Passé composé — signals a main event or turning point.
10. Doux (soft), lumineux (bright), parfumé (fragrant).

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