

What is Narrative Storytelling with Multiple Tenses?

Worksheet

Narrative storytelling with multiple tenses uses passé composé or imparfait for backstory, present tense for immediate action, and future tense for what comes next — creating a vivid timeline within your narrative.

Questions

1. Which tense is best for the main actions in a narrative?

- A) Imparfait
- B) Passé composé
- C) Présent
- D) Conditionnel

2. Complete: 'Il ____ (imparfait: pleuvait/pleut) quand elle ____ (passé composé: arrive/est arrivée).'

- A) pleut/arrive
- B) pleuvait/arrive
- C) pleuvait/est arrivée
- D) pleut/est arrivée

3. Why shift to présent in narrative?

- A) It is easier to write
- B) To create immediacy or vivid action
- C) To avoid using past tense
- D) Because French requires it

4. What does shifting to futur in a narrative typically signal?

- A) The story is ending
- B) A consequence or preview of what comes next
- C) The narrator is tired
- D) An error in tense

5. Write a sentence combining past action, present situation, and future consequence: 'I studied French (passé composé), I am confident (présent), so I will pass the exam (futur).'

6. Create a short narrative: A child played in the park (imparfait), a dog appears (présent), the child will run home (futur).

7. Explain the tense choice: 'Il faisait beau. Je suis sorti. Demain, je retournerai.'

8. Define: What tense for ongoing past actions in narrative?

9. Define: What tense for completed past actions that move the plot?

10. Define: When do you shift to présent in a narrative?

Answer Key

1. B) Passé composé — Passé composé marks the key events that move the story forward.
2. C) pleuvait/est arrivée — Imparfait for background setting, passé composé for the main action.
3. B) To create immediacy or vivid action — Présent brings the reader into the scene as it happens — more engaging.
4. B) A consequence or preview of what comes next — Futur introduces what will happen — a natural progression from the present event.
5. J'ai étudié le français, je suis confiant, donc je réussirai l'examen. Tense progression: Passé composé → Présent → Futur Timeline: clear cause-effect narrative
6. L'enfant jouait dans le parc, un chien apparaîtrait, l'enfant courra à la maison. Imparfait for ongoing past action Présent for immediate event Futur for consequence
7. Il faisait beau (imparfait: background setting) Je suis sorti (passé composé: main action) Demain, je retournerai (futur: preview of next event) Imparfait paints the scene, passé composé moves plot forward
8. Imparfait — for background, description, habit in the past.
9. Passé composé — marks the main events of the narrative.
10. To create immediacy or vivid action — 'the dog suddenly appears.'

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