Al-Mustaqbal University

College of Administrative Sciences

Department of Business Administration

(7th lecture)

(3ed class)

مادة اللغة الانكليزية

Narrative Tenses: A Journey Through Time

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The main aim of this lecture is :

Highlight the significance of education as a tool for personal and professional growth.

Today we will talk about Narrative tenses in English language.

Narrative Tenses: are essential tools for storytelling. They allow us to transport our readers or listeners to different time periods and perspectives. Let's explore the primary narrative tenses:

Past Simple :To describe completed actions in the past.

Example: "Yesterday, I went to the market."

Past Continuous:To describe actions that were ongoing at a specific time in the past.

Example: "While I was cooking, the phone rang."

Past Perfect: To describe actions that were completed before another past action.

Example: "By the time I arrived, the movie had already started."

Past Perfect Continuous: To describe actions that continued for a period of time before another past action.

Example: "She had been working for hours before she took a break."

Present Perfect: To describe past actions that have a connection to the present.

Example: "I have lived in this city for ten years."

Present Perfect Continuous: To describe actions that started in the past and continue to the present. Example: "She has been studying for hours."

Future Perfect: To describe actions that will be completed by a specific time in the future.

Example: "By next year, I will have finished my degree."

How to Choose the Right Tense:

Timeline: Consider the sequence of events and when they occurred.

Duration: Determine if the action was momentary, ongoing, or completed.

Connection to the Present: Assess if the past action has a relevance to the present.

Example: Imagine you're writing a story about a person who moved to a new city.

Past Simple: "She moved to New York last year." (Completed action)

Past Continuous: "She was exploring the city when she met her best friend." (Ongoing action)

Past Perfect: "She had already visited the Empire State Building before she tried the famous pizza." (Action completed before another past action)

Present Perfect: "She has lived in New York for two years now." (Past action with a present connection)

Main Aims of Narrative Tenses

Narrative tenses are essential tools for crafting engaging and coherent stories. Their primary aims are to:

Establish a Clear Timeline:

Sequencing Events: Narrative tenses help organize events in a logical and chronological order.

Setting the Stage: They establish the time frame of the story, whether it's a historical period or a contemporary setting.

Create a Sense of Time and Place:

Immersive Experience: By using appropriate tenses, writers can transport readers to different times and places.

Evoke Emotions: The choice of tense can influence the reader's emotional response, whether it's suspense, nostalgia, or excitement.

Develop Characters and Relationships:

Character Development: Narrative tenses can reveal character traits, motivations, and growth over time.

Interpersonal Dynamics: They can highlight the relationships between characters and how they evolve.

Build Suspense and Climax:

Pacing: The strategic use of tenses can control the pace of the narrative, building anticipation and suspense.

Climax: They can emphasize the crucial turning point or climax of the story.

Provide Context and Background:

Backstory: Narrative tenses can be used to provide background information or context for the main events.

Character History: They can reveal characters' past experiences and how they shape their present actions.

By effectively employing narrative tenses, we can create compelling narratives that captivate readers and leave a lasting impression.

Multiple Choice Questions: Based on the Conversation

1. What is the main topic of the conversation?

a) Work

b) Food

c) Hobbies

d) Travel

2. How does Person B feel about their day?

a) Excited

b) Bored

c) Tired

d) Happy

3. What is Person A planning to do?

a) Go out to eat

b) Watch a movie

c) Cook dinner

d) Read a book

4. How does Person B feel about the invitation to dinner?

a) Indifferent

b) Enthusiastic

c) Disappointed

d) Angry

5. What can you infer about the relationship between Person A and Person B?

a) They are coworkers.

b) They are family members.

c) They are friends.

d) They are strangers.

General Conversation Questions

What is the importance of active listening in a conversation?

a) To show interest

b) To understand the speaker

c) To respond appropriately

d) All of the above

What are some strategies for keeping a conversation going?

a) Asking open-ended questions

b) Sharing personal anecdotes

c) Using positive body language

d) All of the above

What should you avoid in a conversation?

a) Talking about yourself too much

b) Interrupting the speaker

c) Using negative language

d) All of the above

What is the purpose of using open-ended questions in a conversation?

a) To get a quick answer

b) To control the direction of the conversation

c) To encourage longer and more detailed responses

d) To avoid awkward silences

How can you show interest in what someone is saying?

a) Nodding your head

b) Maintaining eye contact

c) Asking follow-up questions

d) All of the above