

GRAMMAR

G1 NARRATIVE TENSES

PAST SIMPLE

Use the past simple for single finished actions. We also use it for a sequence of single actions (to say that one action was followed by another one).

I **opened** the door and **walked** into the room.

PAST CONTINUOUS

Use the past continuous for an ongoing action which sets the scene or background for a story.

The rain **was falling** as we left the house.

Use the past continuous to contrast an ongoing action with a single shorter (past simple) event which occurs during or interrupts the ongoing event.

I **was washing** the car when the phone **rang**.

PAST PERFECT

The past perfect looks back from a time in the past to another time before that, so we can use it to describe an earlier action in a sequence of events.

It was dark. Someone **had turned off** the light.

When we arrived, the train **had left**. (First the train left, then we arrived.)

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Form the past perfect continuous with *had + been + -ing* form of the verb.

A lady **had been sitting** in the chair.

Use the past perfect continuous to describe an ongoing action which continued up to or finished just before another action or time in the past.

Karl realised he'd **been waiting** for over an hour.

We often use the past perfect continuous to explain a past result.

I was angry because I'd **been waiting** so long.

We often use the past perfect continuous with *before*, *after* and *when*.

Carol **had been working** there for a year before they gave her a pay rise.

G2 USED TO, WOULD, GET USED TO

USED TO

Use *used to + infinitive without to* to talk about states that existed in the past, but no longer exist, and for actions that were repeated in the past, but don't happen now.

We **used to live** in the suburbs. (past state)

I **used to read** a lot, but I don't have enough time now. (past repeated action)

! Note the spelling changes for statements, questions and negatives.

I **used to** be a student. Did you **use to** be a student?

We **didn't use to** be students.

WOULD

Use *would + infinitive without to* to talk about things that happened regularly in the past.

When I was a child, we **would spend** every summer by the seaside.

! We never use *would* to talk about states in the past. Summers **would** be cooler here in the past. **x**
Summers **used to** be cooler here in the past. **✓**

GET USED TO

Use *get used to + gerund* to talk about situations you weren't accustomed to doing / found strange in the past but are beginning to find less strange.

I **didn't used to** read electronic books but I'm **getting used to reading** them now.

KEY LANGUAGE

KL PERSUADING, MAKING A PERSUASIVE PRESENTATION

PERSUADING

I'm sure it'll be a winner.

I'm confident you'll like my idea.

I think you'll agree, it's a really interesting and creative idea.

They'd be perfect.

They're bound to appeal to the audience.

They love our concepts.

It will attract a wide range of filmgoers.

We think it's got tremendous potential.

We think our concept is great and hope we've been able to persuade you, too.

MAKING A PERSUASIVE PRESENTATION

I'll start with ...

Turning now to ...

Who is our target audience?

To summarise ...

VOCABULARY

V1 GENRES

autobiography, biography, biopic, crime (story), costume drama, horror, novel, play, poetry, psycho drama, romcom, science fiction (sci-fi), short story, thriller, travel writing

V2 PEOPLE IN LITERATURE

author, autobiographer, biographer, critic, dramatist, ghostwriter, novelist, poet, screenwriter

V3 ADJECTIVES (FOR LITERATURE/FILM/PLOT REVIEWS)

awful, brilliant, classic, disturbing, dreadful, dull, gripping, interesting, lightweight, moving, overrated, riveting, shocking, tedious, tense, thought-provoking

V4 COLLOCATIONS AND IDIOMS

a charming read, a child's perspective, a moral tale, a remake of a film, (dynamic) dialogue, evocative language, extremely well-written, key character, incredibly heart-warming, (realistic) plot

I (just) couldn't get into it. I couldn't put it down. It's a real page turner. It's light and easy to read. It (certainly) lived up to all the hype. It's (not) my kind of thing. It was (very) hard going at the beginning. The ending was a real letdown.

V5 REPORT (READING HABITS)

associated, outperform, preference, pronounced, proportion, relatively, the gender gap, typically, virtually