

### 3A GRAMMAR narrative tenses

a Read the first part of the story and find examples of each tense below.

- 1 the past perfect *had finished* \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 the past perfect continuous \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 the past continuous \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 the second part 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 <sup>1</sup> *was having* (have) lunch with my family at home, my father <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) me about the film. I then <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (mention) that I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (look) at toys in a department store when a store detective <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (accuse) me of shoplifting and <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (search) me in the middle of the shop. My father <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (make) me repeat what I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (say), and then immediately <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (jump up) from the table. Without either of us having finished our lunch, he <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (make) me get into the car. I <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (never see) my father so angry! He <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) quickly to the store, <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (park) outside, and took me to where the incident <sup>14</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (take place). He then demanded to see the manager and the



store detective. When the manager <sup>15</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (come), my father <sup>16</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (start) shouting at him and he told him that I <sup>17</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (never steal) anything in my life. He <sup>18</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (make) the manager and store detective apologize to me for having accused me of shoplifting and for embarrassing me. But the thing is, I <sup>19</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (find) this scene even more embarrassing than the first one, especially as I could see that a lot of customers <sup>20</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) and <sup>21</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) us!