

# Narrative Tenses

## PAST SIMPLE

- Use
- For past actions or states at a specific time
  - I saw you last night
  - I was at home from 5 to 7

• Timeline



## PAST CONTINUOUS

- Use
- For actions in progress in the past, interrupted at some point
  - By 9AM, I was still driving
  - She was working when you called
- Parallel/multiple actions
  - While I was reading, they were yelling and crying

• Timeline



## PAST PERFECT

- Use
- To express that an action happened before another action in the past
  - He had left before I got there
- Duration from the past (State verbs)
  - I had had that car for 5 years when I sold it
- If there's a time reference, preferably use simple past
  - I had visited the UK twice in 2010 before I moved there

• Timeline



## PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- Use
- To express duration from the past until another point in the past
  - I had been playing golf for five years by 1999

• Timeline



↑ Do not overuse or translate from Spanish ↑

Combine with simple past