

Ling 103: Rage Narratives

http://www.achillesheel.freeuk.com/article19_3.html [Men & Rage - Issue 19 - Winter 1995/1996] Kieron Jecchinis interviews Vietnam veteran Raphael Rogers.

Can you tell me about a time you got into a rage?

I remember once, my father let me go boxing. I went in and I had a couple of lessons. And they put me in a ring with a kid a good bit bigger than me. And he begins to thump me. Which I thought was totally unfair, being, that he seemed, to me, much better than me, and was using me as a punching bag. And I told him that he ought to quit. And, he didn't. So I got out of the ring and I took the gloves off, and I told him I'd see him outside. He laughed. I went outside and got a two by four and waited behind the door. And when he came out I beat him, until I got tired. And I told him next time he saw me not to hit me, he ought to pay attention to what I said.

Can you tell me about a time you got into a rage?

I remember once I had met my girlfriend. She said that this guy had been following her. So I let her go through the door. I went through the door. And the guy came in behind us. I turned around and said "Can I help you?" And he said. "I think I want to talk to the girl." I said. "It's my girlfriend. And she doesn't want to talk to you." And he said. "Well I want to talk to her." And I took a nine millimeter high power out and dropped it to my side, and I said. "She does not want to talk to you. And I think it would be in your advantage to leave." Which he did.

Can you tell me about a time you got into a rage?

What had happened, in front of this school, I erected certain NO PARKING ANYTIME signs to control traffic. And this young man and his girlfriend parked up under one of these signs. And I asked him to park in the back. And he said, "Fuck you." I said, "Listen. You cannot park there. You park there. I will tow your car away and I will put you in jail. So you take your car around back, and we'll forget that." He said, "I'm not gonna do a thing. You can go and get fucked." I said, "You are under arrest, you can get out of your car." He got out of his car and said, "You're not going to put me in jail." And I was standing, oh, maybe ten feet in front of his car, and he started at me. Walking. I unsnapped my weapon. And now I think I had become a bit upset. I think he had challenged my authority and I had switched into a non-reasoning mode. And I unleashed this weapon and I dropped it to my side. As he started towards me I started to bring the weapon up. I was a police officer at the time, and I cannot say that I functioned that way as a police officer, this instance though. I was going to send him out of here. His girlfriend ran around and threw her arms around this guy and explained to him that I was not the person that he should take to task. Good for him. Because I had about levelled the weapon and it was about half way cocked. He believed her and put his hands on the car. After this I realized I had been very close to making a mistake. I then went to my district commander, explained to him what had happened and asked to be relieved of this duty. Because kids will do this sort of thing. He immediately understood and I never had to go back to this place again.

Can you tell me about a time when you got into a rage?

- a I remember
 once I had met my girlfriend.
- b She said that this guy had been following her.
- c So I let her go through the door.
- d I went through the door.
- e And the guy came in behind us.
- f I turned around
- g and said
 “Can I help you?”
- h And he said.
 “I think I want to talk to the girl.”
- i I said,
 “It’s my girlfriend, and she doesn’t want to talk to you.”
- j And he said,
 “Well I want to talk to her.”
- k And I took a nine millimeter high power out
- l and dropped it to my side,
- m and I said,
 “She does not want to talk to you,
 and I think it would be in your advantage to leave.”
- n Which he did.

- a orientation
- b-m complication
- n resolution

The narrative is already in its primary sequence.

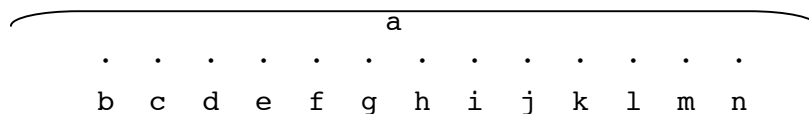
The verbs of each temporally independent clause are italicized and in blue.

Explicit temporal junctures are underlined.

Can you tell me about a time when you got into a rage?

- a I remember
once I *had met* my girlfriend.
- b She *said* that this guy had been following her.
- c So I *let* her go through the door.
- d I *went* through the door.
- e And the guy *came in* behind us.
- f I *turned around*
- g and *said*
“Can I help you?”
- h And he *said*,
“I think I want to talk to the girl.”
- i I *said*,
“It's my girlfriend, and she doesn't want to talk to you.”
- j And he *said*,
“Well I want to talk to her.”
- k And I *took* a nine millimeter high power out
- l and *dropped* it to my side,
- m and I *said*,
“She does not want to talk to you,
and I think it would be in your advantage to leave.”
- n Which he *did*.

I remember simply introduces and frames the narrative. The verb *had met* is in the past perfect tense, indicating an event that had taken place in the past the consequences of which are still true at the reference time (the time the story begins). Thus, it actually represents a *state* which last from the beginning to the end of the story.



Each of the remaining independent clauses can be viewed as a punctual event. They all occur in order. The only explicit temporal junctures used are *so* and *and*. This is a very straightforward narrative.

(Can you tell me about a time when you got into a rage?)

- a I remember once, **my father let me** go boxing.
 b I *went in*
 c and I *had* a couple of lessons.
 d And they *put* me in a ring with a kid a good bit bigger than me.
 e And he *begins to thump* me.
 f Which I *thought* was **totally unfair**,
 being, that he seemed, to me, much better than me,
 and was **using me as a punching bag**.
 g And I *told* him that he ought to quit.
 h And, he *didn't*.
 i So I *got out* of the ring
 j and I *took* the gloves off,
 k and I *told* him I'd see him outside.
 l He *laughed*.
 m I *went* outside
 n and *got* a two by four
 o and *waited* behind the door.
 p And when he came out
 I *beat* him,
 until I got tired.
 q And I *told* him
 next time he saw me not to hit me,
 he ought to pay attention to what I said.

a-b orientation

c-p complication

q-r resolution

The whole narrative is already in its primary sequence.

Each independent clause refers to an event or interval of time before
 that referred to by the following independent clause.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q

- a What *had happened*,
in front of this school, I erected certain NO PARKING
ANYTIME signs to control traffic.
- b And this young man and his girlfriend *parked* up under one of these
signs.
- c And I *asked* him to park in the back.
- d And he *said*, “**Fuck you.**”
- e I *said*,
“Listen. You cannot park there. You park there. I will tow your
car away and I will put you in jail. So you take your car around
back, and we'll forget that.”
- f He *said*,
“I'm not gonna do a thing. **You can go and get fucked.**”
- g I *said*,
“You are under arrest, you can get out of your car.”
- h He *got out* of his car
- i and *said*,
“You're not going to put me in jail.”
- j And I *was standing*, oh, **maybe ten feet in front of his car**,
- k and he *started at me*. Walking.
- l I *unsnapped* my weapon.
- m **And now I think I *had become* a bit upset.**
- n **I think he *had challenged* my authority**
- o **and I *had switched* into a non-reasoning mode.**
- p And I *unleashed* this weapon
- q and I *dropped* it to my side.
- r As he started towards me
I *started to bring* the weapon up.
- s **I *was* a police officer at the time,**
- t **and I cannot *say* that I functioned that way as a police officer, this
instance, though.**
- u **I *was going to* send him out of here.**
- v His girlfriend *ran around*
- w and *threw her arms around* this guy
- x and *explained* to him that I was not the person that he should take to
task.
- y **[That *was*] Good for him. Because I *had* about levelled the weapon
and it *was* about halfway cocked.**
- z He *believed* her
- aa and *put* his hands on the car.
- bb After this I *realized*
I had been **very close** to making a mistake.
- cc I then *went* to my district commander,

dd *explained* to him what had happened
ee and *asked* to be relieved of this duty, *because kids will do this sort of*
thing.
ff He *immediately understood*
gg and I *never had to go back* to this place again.

m-o *suspension of action*

s-t *suspension of action*

y *suspension of action*

a-----	what had happened was
b	parked
c	asked
d	said
e	said
f	said
g	said
h	got out
i	said
-----j-----	was standing
k	started
l	unsnapped
--m-----	had become upset
-----n-----	had challenged
-----o-----	had switched
p	unleashed
q	dropped
r	started to bring
-----s-----	was
-----t-----	cannot say
----u-----	was going to send
v	ran around
w	threw
x	explained
y	[That was] good for him
z	believed
aa	put
bb	realized
cc	went
dd	explained
ee	asked
ff	understood
gg	never had to go back

Primary sequence:

- ast What *had happened*,
 in front of this school, I erected certain NO PARKING
 ANYTIME signs to control traffic,
 (and) I *was* a police officer at the time,
 and I cannot *say* that I functioned that way as a police officer, this
 instance, though.
- b And this young man and his girlfriend *parked* up under one of these
 signs.
- j And I *was standing*, oh, maybe ten feet in front of his car,
- c And I *asked* him to park in the back.
- d And he *said*, “Fuck you.”
- n I think he *had challenged* my authority
- e I *said*,
 “Listen. You cannot park there. You park there. I will tow your
 car away and I will put you in jail. So you take your car around
 back, and we'll forget that.”
- f He *said*,
 “I'm not gonna do a thing. You can go and get fucked.”
- g I *said*,
 “You are under arrest, you can get out of your car.”
- h He *got out* of his car
- i and *said*,
 “You're not going to put me in jail.”
- k and he *started* at me. Walking.
- m And now I think I had become a bit upset.
- o and I had switched into a non-reasoning mode.
- u (and) I *was going to send him out of here*.
- l I *unsnapped* my weapon.
- p And I *unleashed* this weapon
- q and I *dropped* it to my side.
- r As he started towards me
 I *started to bring* the weapon up.
- v His girlfriend *ran around*
- w and *threw* her arms around this guy
- xy and *explained* to him that I was not the person that he should take to
 task,
 (and) [That *was*] Good for him, [b]ecause I had about levelled the
 weapon and it was about halfway cocked.
- z He *believed* her

aa and *put* his hands on the car.

bb After this I *realized*

I had been very close to making a mistake.

cc I then *went* to my district commander,

dd *explained* to him what had happened

ee and *asked* to be relieved of this duty, because kids will do this sort of thing.

ff He immediately *understood*

gg and I *never had to go back* to this place again.