

## 1 Read the blog post and answer the questions.

- What had the writer forgotten to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- What happened next? \_\_\_\_\_

HOME

BLOGS

FORUMS

ABOUT

CONTACTS

In my English class we <sup>1</sup>*d prepared/d been preparing* for final presentations for a whole month, and my group was scheduled to present on Monday at 9.00 a.m. These presentations were very important. The teacher <sup>2</sup>*had told/had been telling* us they were worth half our final grade. Imagine my horror when I woke up that day at 8.45 a.m. I <sup>3</sup>*d forgotten/d been forgetting* to set my alarm!

I messaged my group to say I was going to be late. They <sup>4</sup>*d been getting/d got* quite worried because we <sup>5</sup>*d arranged/d been arranging* to meet early for a final practice of our presentation and I <sup>6</sup>*hadn't arrived/hadn't been arriving* or <sup>7</sup>*hadn't called/called*. I quickly got ready and ran out of the house.

The pavement was wet because it <sup>8</sup>*had rained/had been raining* all night. Suddenly, I slipped over on the path and fell heavily. Even though I <sup>9</sup>*d never broken/d never been breaking* a bone before, I knew from the pain that it was what I <sup>10</sup>*d done/d been doing*.

By the time I checked my phone at the hospital later that morning, I <sup>11</sup>*d received/d been receiving* twelve increasingly frustrated messages from my group members. They <sup>12</sup>*d wondered/d been wondering* what on earth <sup>13</sup>*had happened/had been happening* to me.

In the end, they <sup>14</sup>*d continued/d been continuing* with the presentation as planned, but the teacher said I wouldn't get any marks unless I had a very good excuse for my absence. Even though oversleeping was the real reason I <sup>15</sup>*d missed/d been missing* the presentation, my broken wrist provided a very good excuse indeed!

## 2 Complete the blog post with the correct alternatives. More than one option may be possible.

## 3 Write your own story about something that went wrong, but worked out OK in the end. Use the past perfect simple and continuous.



I co-ordinated the cleaning up of rubbish that had been left on a river bank after a huge storm. I organised more than 500 volunteers, who left the river bank cleaner than it had been before the storm.

I found a colleague on the floor where he had collapsed. I knew that he'd been suffering from an illness and found some medicine in his bag, which saved his life.

I'd just finished lunch at a café when I saw a woman steal an elderly man's bag. I chased after her and managed to grab the bag. I later learnt that the man had been keeping his life savings in that bag.

I'm a physiotherapist. Although I'd been saving for years to buy a house, after my sister suffered a back injury, I decided to use the money to start a low-cost treatment centre. Over 200 people have stayed at my centre so far.

I ran seven marathons in seven days and raised over £1,000,000 for a local hospital that had treated my nephew. I managed to finish the final race, even though I'd been suffering from flu for 24 hours.

I spent twenty years cycling round the world, visiting areas where natural disasters had occurred. I wrote a book about my experiences and donated the profits to several international charities.

I rescued a family from a fire in their home, even though I hadn't met them before. The family, who'd been sleeping at the time, are all safe and well.

I climbed a mountain to save the life of a friend who'd broken a leg and had been lying there injured for over four days. Despite the danger, I managed to reach my friend and bring her down the mountain safely.

One day I had been surfing when I noticed a whale had got stuck on the sand further up the beach. I kept the whale alive then helped it swim away when the sea came in.

You are an imposter. Tell no one. You have come to the heroes' dinner to meet the star! You must make up a story about a heroic act you did to convince everyone you are one of the real heroes.

Find someone who ...	Name(s)
1 ... organised 500 volunteers to clean up a river bank after a huge storm _____ (leave) it covered in rubbish.	
2 ... helped an elderly man who _____ (keep) his life savings in a bag.	
3 ... ran seven marathons to raise money for the hospital which _____ (treat) his/her nephew.	
4 ... rescued a family, who _____ (sleep), from a burning building.	
5 ... saved a whale, that _____ (get) stuck on a beach.	
6 ... saved the life of a colleague who _____ (collapse) from an illness.	
7 ... used all the money that he/she _____ (save) to open a rehabilitation centre.	
8 ... wrote a book about his/her twenty years cycling to areas where natural disasters _____ (occur).	
9 ... climbed a mountain to save a friend who _____ (lie) there for several days with a broken leg.	
10 ... is an imposter who has pretended to be a hero because he/she _____ (heard) his/her favourite star would be here!	

## **A good memory for names**

For most people, faces are more memorable than names.

Bear in mind that many people have no memory of a name because they weren't concentrating when they were told it.

To memorise names, listen carefully and repeat it.

Then think of something the name reminds you of.

I'll never forget the first time I used this tip. I met a Harry and he had red hair like Prince Harry. Very easy for me to recall!