

My nightmare job interview

Last week, I had a job interview. The interview was on Friday at 9:30 a.m. in New York City. On Thursday evening, I prepared a presentation on my laptop and checked the train times and the address of the company. Before the interview, I felt confident. I went to bed early because I wanted to sleep well.

On Friday morning, the problems started. First, I didn't hear my alarm, and I woke up late. I didn't have time to take a shower or have breakfast. I ran out of the house.

It started to rain, so I stopped to buy an umbrella. Then I ran to the station, but I missed my train!

I felt quite stressed, but there was another train in twenty minutes. I called the company, and they changed the interview to 10:30 a.m. I felt a bit more relaxed. Later, I arrived in New York, and I checked my phone to see where the company was. But my phone had no battery! I was very late when I arrived at their office.

After I got to the interview room, I opened my bag to take out my laptop, but it wasn't there! I felt really stressed, and I had a terrible interview. I wasn't surprised when I didn't get the job!

by Tony Smart



Read the story. Order the events a-h from 1-8.

- a The interview started.
- b Tony checked the address.
- c They changed the interview time.
- d He checked the train times.
- e His phone didn't have any battery.
- f It started to rain.
- g He went to the station.
- h He saw that he didn't have his computer.



Skill planning and making notes

Before you write a story about yourself, ask yourself the following questions and make notes:

1 When did it happen?

2 Where were you at the start?

3 What were the main events?

4 How did you feel at different times?

5 What happened in the end?

Match the notes with different questions in the Skill box.



- a fell asleep on the bus to the airport, didn't get off the bus at the airport, missed the plane, slept at the airport
- b last month
- c London, on vacation
- d got a flight the next day
- e tired (on the bus), stressed and angry (at the airport), very tired, but happy (the next day)

Write a preliminary draft. Revise to include extra details.



Text builder sequencers

We can connect events with words such as *first*, *then*, *later*, *before*, and *after*. We use these to show the time order of the events:

First, I got up late. *Then* I took a shower. *Later*, I went out for coffee.

We use **before** and **after** + a noun or verb phrase:

Before the interview, ...

After I got to the interview room, ...

Choose the correct sequencers to complete the sentences.

- 1 I always walk my dog in the evening *before* / *after* I go to bed.
- 2 *First* / *Before*, I had a cup of coffee. Then I went shopping.
- 3 I felt very tired on the trip home. *Later* / *Before*, I fell asleep on the sofa.
- 4 We bought some food. *First* / *Then* we made a nice meal.
- 5 Are you coming *before* or *after* / *later* dinner?

Write sequencers in the preliminary draft.