

- 1 What is a coincidence? Can you think of any coincidences?
- 2 Complete the anecdotes with the words in the box. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

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Tell us about a coincidence in your life.



I was at university, on ¹ _____ to finish my bachelors degree any day, when my tutor saw me walking down the hallway and pulled me into her office. She told me that a student who was all ² _____ to begin a master's project had pulled out at the last minute due to an unexpected illness and there was an opportunity for me to take his place. The catch was that I had to make my decision then and there. I hadn't ever ³ _____ to be offered an opportunity like that, but I took a deep breath and said yes. I often wonder what might have happened if I hadn't been walking past the professor's door at that time, as my whole career trajectory could have been completely different.



I was standing on a platform at King's Cross station in London and was about ⁴ _____ board a train. Suddenly, a voice called out my name. I turned around and there was my best friend from primary school, who had moved away and I hadn't seen in years. We were both so moved, we were on the ⁵ _____ of tears. He'd ⁶ _____ to take that train too, so we caught it together and spent the trip to Cambridge deep in conversation.



I'd been dating someone for a while and we were on the ⁷ _____ of becoming quite serious. We were ⁸ _____ to go out for a picnic on Valentine's Day, so I made a playlist of some of my favourite songs as a gift, because I'm not hugely into spending money on a such a commercial day. Anyway, at the picnic, not only had my boyfriend made a playlist, but it also had the same first song as mine: *Think* by Aretha Franklin. That's it, I thought, and I ⁹ _____ a long happy and future for us. Two years later, we're still going strong.

- 3 Work in pairs. Which of the coincidences in Exercise 2 do you find most and least surprising? Has anything similar happened to you or someone you know?