

Story: "The Missed Opportunity"

Instructions:

- Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Use past simple, past continuous, past perfect, or the third conditional where appropriate.

The Missed Opportunity

It was a cold winter evening, and James _____ (walk) home after a long day at work. He _____ (think) about the job interview he _____ (have) earlier that day. James _____ (prepare) for weeks, and he really _____ (want) the job. However, he couldn't shake the feeling that something _____ (go) wrong.

As he _____ (cross) the street, he suddenly _____ (remember) that he _____ (forget) to bring an important document to the interview. "If only I _____ (bring) that document, I might have made a better impression," he thought to himself. He _____ (spend) the entire walk home replaying the interview in his mind, thinking about all the things he _____ (should/say) differently.

When he _____ (arrive) home, his wife, Emily, _____ (wait) for him with a hopeful look on her face. "How did it go?" she asked. James _____ (sigh) and _____ (shake) his head. "I don't think I _____ (do) well," he replied. "If I _____ (prepare) better, I _____ (not/make) those mistakes."

Emily _____ (listen) patiently as James _____ (explain) what had happened. "It's okay," she said, trying to comfort him. "If you _____ (not/get) this job, it just means something better _____ (come) along."

Later that night, as James _____ (lie) in bed, he _____ (wish) he _____ (handle) the interview differently. "If I _____ (study) those company details more thoroughly, I _____ (answer) their questions more confidently," he thought. But it was too late now; all he could do was wait and hope for the best.

The next morning, James _____ (wake up) early, feeling a bit more optimistic. He _____ (decide) that, regardless of the outcome, he _____ (learn) from the experience. "If I _____ (get) another interview, I _____ (make) sure to be fully prepared," he told himself.