

The Pursuit of Happiness



1) Read the synopsis of the movie. Complete the gaps with the words from the box.

expensive - challenging - wife - true story - homeless

The film is based on a _____ about a man named Christopher Gardner. Gardner has invested heavily in a device known as a "Bone Density scanner". However, they do not sell easily because they are twice more _____ than x-ray with practically the same resolution. The situation caused troubles to his relationship with his _____, who leaves him and their son Christopher, and moves to New York where she has taken a job in a pizza parlor. Soon, Gardner and his child found themselves caught in a web of incredibly _____ circumstances that left them as part of the city's _____. Never giving in to despair, Gardner made an astonishing transformation from being part of the city's invisible poor to being a powerful player in its financial district.

2) Watch the [movie segment](#) and fill in the blanks with the simple past or the past continuous form of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1) Chris _____ (cook) burgers for breakfast when his landlord _____ (knock) on his door.
- 2) The police _____ (arrest) Chris when he _____ (paint) the house.
- 3) Chris _____ (pay) some parking tickets when the officer _____ (tell) him he was supposed to spend the night in jail.
- 4) When Chris _____ (call) his ex-wife, she _____ (work) hard.
- 5) When he _____ (enter) the elevator, he _____ (try) to button up his jacket.
- 6) He _____ (wait) in the waiting room when the secretary _____ (call) out his name.
- 7) When he _____ (walk) through the office, businesspeople _____ (talk) on the phone, _____ (speak) very loudly, and _____ (work) a lot.
- 8) The Board _____ (wait) for Chris when the secretary _____ (announce) him.

3) The video ends when Chris is about to have a job interview. How do you think the story follows? Use your imagination and write a paragraph telling how the story continues. Your narration must include instances of PAST SIMPLE and PAST CONTINUOUS. Use the following questions as a guide:

- What happened at the job interview? Was it successful?
- What was the reaction of the Board?
- How did Chris feel?
- Did his life change? How?