**Writing**

## Writing a Narrative Essay

**Essay topic**: *"Yesterday was my worst day at school." Continue the story.*

**4** Complete the essay by filling the blanks with the time words from the box.

| moment | continued | when | from now on | after | while |
|--------|-----------|------|-------------|-------|-------|

My day at school yesterday was a nightmare! I overslept because I had gone to bed late and forgotten to set my alarm. (1)_____ I woke up, I got a terrible surprise. It was ten o'clock! I put on my uniform and ran to school. Unfortunately, (2)_____ I was running, I slipped and fell into a muddy puddle.

(3)_____ arriving at school, I apologised to my teacher, Miss Evans. She told me to go to the boys' toilets to clean myself up. While I was there, I saw a boy from the year ahead of me smoking. He handed me his cigarette. I took it but said I didn't want to try it. At that very (4)_____, the headmaster walked in and saw me holding the cigarette. He called my parents and told them that I had been caught smoking.

My bad luck (5)_____ during the lunch break. I was playing cricket with some friends when suddenly I hit the ball really far. It flew over the sports field and crashed through a classroom window.

All in all, yesterday was the worst day that I've ever had at school. (6)_____, I'm going to go to bed earlier, remember to set my alarm, and be more careful.

## 5 Useful Time Phrases for Telling Stories

Find the following patterns in the essay above. Underline and mark them A–D.

A.    While I was V-ing, I V-ed
B.    After V-ing, I V-ed
C.    I was V-ing when (all of a sudden, suddenly) I V-ed
D.    All of a sudden /Suddenly / At that very moment, sb V-ed

---

**The Past Perfect (had + past participle)** is used when we are talking about two things that happened in the past. The past perfect shows which event happened first. We often add 'already'. *When I got home, they **had already eaten**.*

What happened first in these two sentences?
*I overslept because I **had gone** to bed late.*
*He called my parents and told them that I **had been caught** smoking.*

Straight As