

14

Choose the correct alternative.

Lucky accidents

Is it true that Sir Isaac Newton understood gravity because an apple (1) fell / was falling on his head when he (2) lay / was lying under a tree in his garden? Probably not. However, many great and small discoveries are the result of lucky accidents ...

One day in 1879 chemist Constantin Fahlberg (3) didn't wash / wasn't washing his hands before dinner. While he (4) ate / was eating he (5) noticed / was noticing that the bread (6) tasted / was tasting sweet. The sweetness was saccharin.

Alexander Fleming (7) became / was becoming interested in the control of bacteria while he (8) worked / was working as a doctor during the First World War. In 1928 he (9) tidied / was tidying his laboratory when he (10) saw / was seeing that one of the dirty dishes (11) didn't have / wasn't having any bacteria on it, but that something else (12) grew / was growing there. It was penicillin.

In 1930 dietician Ruth Wakefield (13) prepared / was preparing some cookies for guests when she (14) realised / was realising that she had no chocolate powder. She (15) decided / was deciding to use small pieces of ordinary chocolate instead. The chocolate pieces (16) didn't melt / wasn't melting, and the first chocolate chip cookies were a great success.

Dr Percy Spencer was a physicist in the 1940s who probably enjoyed chocolate chip cookies. He (17) walked / was walking past some equipment in the laboratory when he (18) felt / was feeling something strange in his pocket. It was his chocolate bar and it (19) melted / was melting. This accident (20) led / was leading to the invention of a new piece of cooking equipment – the microwave oven.

15

Put the verbs into the correct form: past simple or past continuous.

From: Ada
To: Becky
Subject: Naomi

Hi Becky,

Guess what, my sister Naomi is married! She (1) got (get) home from her round the world trip last week with a husband!! She (2) (meet) him when she (3) (travel) round New Zealand. One afternoon, while her friends (4) (shop), she (5) (go) to look round an art gallery. She (6) (look) at a small sculpture when a young man (7) (come) into the room and he (8) (start) to put it into his rucksack. She (9) (call) the security guard because she (10) (think) the man (11) (try) to steal it. She (12) (be) really embarrassed to discover that he (13) (not steal) it – it (14) (belong) to him! Anyway, he (15) (not mind) and he (16) (ask) her to go for a coffee. They (17) (get married) a month later in Bali. We (18) (not know) anything about it! Can you believe it? He's really nice and they are very happy together!

Love, Ada