

1 SPEAKING Read the advert for the Atlantic challenge and discuss the questions.

- 1 What type of event is it?
- 2 What might the challenges be?
- 3 If you took part in the event, who would you choose as your rowing partner?
■ your best friend ■ your mum / dad ■ your teacher ■ someone famous

2 Read part 1 of the story. Who was supposed to be Daniel's rowing partner? What happened? What do you think happened next?

Part 1

¹Jan Meek usually **got** home from work at 6 o'clock and today was no different. ²She **made** herself a cup of tea and **looked** out of the kitchen window. ³It **was raining** and cold outside – not good weather for building a boat. Jan had an uneasy feeling and decided to check her answering machine. There was a message from her son, Daniel, and it wasn't good news. ⁴At the time, 21-year-old Daniel **was preparing** to compete in the Atlantic challenge with a friend. Unfortunately, his friend had just called him with some bad news. He didn't have the time to prepare for the race, so Daniel had to find another partner, someone with enough free time to raise money, build a boat and to train! ⁵The boat **was** very small and the race was long, so it also had to be someone he could get on with. ⁶Jan phoned her son and asked him what **had happened**. Then ⁷while Jan **was suggesting** solutions, Daniel **interrupted** her ...

Narrative tenses

3 Read part 1 of the story again. Then match sentences 1–7 to rules a–g.

We use the past simple for:

- a a past state.
- b a past habit.
- c a sequence of actions in the past.

We use the past continuous for:

- d background descriptions.
- e an action or actions in progress at a specific time in the past.

We use the past simple and the past continuous for:

- f a longer action interrupted by a shorter action.

We use the past perfect for:

- g an action or event that happened before another action in the past.

4 Complete part 2 of the story with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Then answer the questions.

- 1 Who did Daniel ask and why?
- 2 Why did they agree?
- 3 What was good / bad about the journey?

Part 2

Surprisingly, Daniel ¹..... (ask) his fifty-year-old mum to be his rowing partner. His mum ²..... (never / row) in her life, but she was very adventurous. The previous year she ³..... (study) Chinese in Taiwan, then she had gone backpacking round the world on her own. Jan said 'yes' because she ⁴..... (know) that the race was a 'once-in-a-lifetime' opportunity.

Two years and many hours of training later, Jan and Daniel ⁵..... (arrive) in Tenerife. At last they were ready to take part in the race – they ⁶..... (raise) enough money and they ⁷..... (build) a good boat. On the boat, there was enough food for 100 days, as well as books and music for entertainment. They ⁸..... (also / ask) friends to write them letters and poems, so they had something to open during the difficult days ahead.

Once the race ⁹..... (start), Jan and Daniel realized just how hard it was going to be. The rowing was tiring, they couldn't wash and they were constantly soaked with salt water. There were terrible days when they wanted to give up, but there were also good days. While they ¹⁰..... (row), they saw dolphins, whales, and flying fish. They also ¹¹..... (get) to know each other extremely well.

In the end, the journey ¹²..... (take) 101 days – two months longer than the winners of the race. Jan and Daniel thought that everyone ¹³..... (forget) about them. But when they arrived in Barbados, people ¹⁴..... (wait) on boats to greet them. Everyone ¹⁵..... (cheer) and waving, and there was music and fireworks. People wanted to congratulate them on their amazing achievement!

5 Choose the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Were you finding your watch when you tidied up?
b Did you find your watch while you were tidying up?
- 2 a I saw a big spider in my sleeping bag when I opened it.
b I was seeing a big spider in my sleeping bag when I opened it.
- 3 a It was eight o'clock. The sun was setting and people were enjoying the warm evening air.
b It was eight o'clock. The sun set and people enjoyed the warm evening air.
- 4 a While you were putting your bag in the overhead locker, something fell out.
b While you put your bag in the overhead locker, something fell out.
- 5 a We discussed our holiday destination when Sharon had a great idea.
b We were discussing our holiday destination when Sharon had a great idea.
- 6 a Matilda's shoe broke while she was walking around town, so she bought a new pair.
b Matilda's shoe was breaking while she was walking around town, so she bought a new pair.
- 7 a Once the plane was starting its engines, Kieran realized that he was very nervous.
b Once the plane started its engines, Kieran realized that he was very nervous.

6 One of the verbs in each sentence is wrong. Rewrite one of the verbs in each sentence in the correct form. Use the past simple, past continuous or past perfect.

- 1 Dina felt disappointed with the result because she never failed an exam in her life.
.....
- 2 The driver stopped the bus and had opened a map. Someone asked him if he was lost.
.....
- 3 The trip went really well and everyone was having a good time. Suddenly, the tour guide announced that there was a problem.
.....
- 4 While Emma had taken Sammy back to the campsite, we stayed on the beach and played volleyball.
.....
- 5 When we arrived at the hotel, we'd decided not to stay there.
.....
- 6 When I came into the bedroom last night, you talked in your sleep.
.....

7 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple, past continuous or past perfect. If two tenses are possible, write both forms.

- 1 Jane (knew) the area well because she (go) the year before.
- 2 Everyone (turn round) when she (walk) into the room.
- 3 While you (enjoy) your holiday, we (have to) look after the house.
- 4 She (speak) Spanish very well considering she ever (not have) any classes.
- 5 When Pete (get) to know the town, he (feel) much safer there.
- 6 Tania (leave) but we (manage) to persuade her to stay.
- 7 When the traffic (move), our taxi (speed up).
- 8 We (decide) to go for a walk after we (eat).