

DATE _____

(6) PAST EVENTS

Grammar talking about past events

4 Complete the conversation with the correct past tense form of the verbs in brackets.

A I ¹ bumped (bump) into Jo yesterday. She ² _____ (just/come) back from a trip to Brazil.

B Really? What ³ _____ (she/do) in Brazil?

A She ⁴ _____ (go) over there on a research trip as part of her PhD. She and a team of scientists ⁵ _____ (look) for new species in the Amazon river.

B Interesting. How ⁶ _____ (it/go)?

A Very well, I think. Apparently, they ⁷ _____ (discover) a new species: vegetarian piranha.

B How amazing!

A Yes, she was very proud. She ⁸ _____ (show) me some photos that she ⁹ _____ (take).

5 Choose the correct options to complete the article.

Ben Saunders

World record-breaking polar explorer

Imagine the cold. Minus 50 degrees Centigrade. Cold enough to freeze boiling water instantly. Picture the ground – icy, uneven, slippery, full of cracks. Then imagine having 1,795 miles to walk, knowing that this journey has never been completed successfully on foot and has killed everyone who has tried ...

This is the challenge that ¹faced / *had faced* British polar explorer Ben Saunders and his companion Tarka L'Herpinier as they ² *set off* / *had set off* in October 2013, from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole and back, to complete the journey that the famous British explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott had attempted a century earlier, but which unfortunately ³ *was costing* / *had cost* him his life. Captain Scott and his team had walked for six months before they ⁴ *reached* / *had reached* the South Pole, only to discover that a Norwegian party, led by Roald Amundsen, ⁵ *got* / *had got* there first. All Scott's team died as they ⁶ *returned* / *were returning* home.

A hundred years later, it ⁷ *took* / *was taking* Saunders and L'Herpinier 105 days to make the journey, and in doing so they ⁸ *broke* / *were breaking* the record for the longest human-powered polar journey in history. Their achievement is extraordinary when you consider that throughout the journey they ⁹ *dragged* / *were dragging* 200 kg of food and equipment and they ¹⁰ *used* / *were using* skis. Although he is best known for the South Pole expedition, Saunders ¹¹ *already broke* / *had already broken* a record ten years earlier when he ¹² *became* / *was becoming* the youngest person, at the age of twenty-three, to reach the North Pole alone and on foot.

6 Combine the pairs of sentences using the correct form of the verbs and the time expressions in bold. Do not change the order of the sentences.

1 I (swim) in the sea. I (get) stung by a jellyfish. **while**

While I was swimming in the sea,
I got stung by a jellyfish.

2 I (not experienced) extreme cold temperatures. I (go) to Siberia. **until**

3 The plane's engine (make) a strange noise. It (take) off. **as**

4 We (never go) to Italy. We (go) to Naples last year. **before**

5 She (meet) her fiancé. They (train) to climb Everest. **while**

6 The storm (start). The ferry (leave) the port. **not long after**

7 I (taste) some wonderful food. I (travel) in India. **when**

