2.7 WRITING

A story

I can write a story with a simple linear sequence.

1 SPEAKING **Tell your partner about a surprising or interesting thing that happened to you on holiday.**

Say:
1 where and when it happened.
2 how old you were.
3 what you were doing when it happened.

2 **Read Paul's story and choose the best title, A, B or C.**

A The Holiday of a Lifetime
B Surprise by the Sea
C Beautiful Cornwall

I was twelve years old and my parents and I were on holiday in Cornwall. They are both biologists and we all love nature. One morning, Dad suggested walking along the beach to a distant village.

It was a lovely day for a walk, but after an hour, I noticed some dark clouds. I asked my parents if they thought we should go back. They smiled at each other, and then Mum said we were nearly there.

What was going on? Mum usually made me go indoors during storms. What's more, we were still far away from the village. Anyway, suddenly, there was loud thunder and it started to rain. "Come on, quick!" my father said. "We're almost there."

I noticed a cottage not far away. Dad started running towards it so we ran after him. When we got there, he seemed really excited, which I must admit was a bit strange. Unfortunately, there was no one home. 'That's unlucky,' said Dad 'but wait...' Suddenly, he took a key from his pocket, unlocked the door and pushed it open. He was silent for a moment. Then with a smile he said: "Come in. And welcome home!" What a surprise!

In fact, thinking back to my parents' behaviour during the first part of our holiday, I knew something strange was going on – but I had no idea what! Our new holiday home was the perfect place for nature lovers. It was awesome!

We still live in London, but our cottage in Cornwall is our dream house, and I will never forget the day I first saw it.

3 **Read the story again and put events in the correct order.**

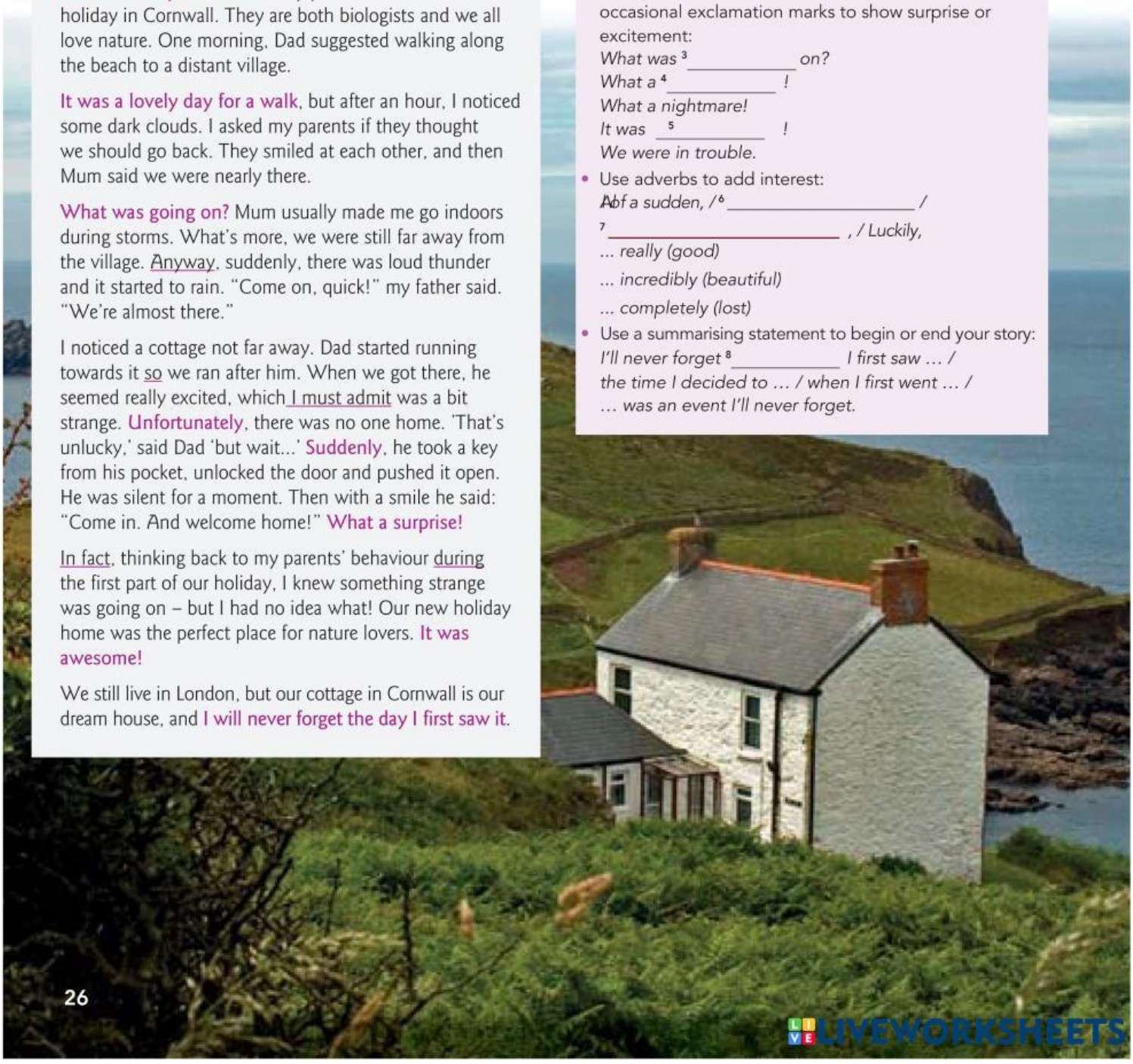
a Nobody answered the door. ☐
b The weather changed. ☐
c The family went into their new holiday home. ☐
d The family went to Cornwall on holiday. ☐
e Paul saw a cottage in the distance. ☐
f The family went for a walk along the coast. ☐

4 **Read the WRITING FOCUS. Complete the examples with the words in purple in the story.**

WRITING FOCUS

A story

- Set the scene:
  I [1] *was twelve years old when …*
  It was late in the evening when …
  It [2] _____ *a walk.*
  I was in the classroom when …
- Use questions, short dramatic sentences and occasional exclamation marks to show surprise or excitement:
  What was [3] _____ *on?*
  What a [4] _____ *!*
  What a nightmare!
  It was [5] _____ *!*
  We were in trouble.
- Use adverbs to add interest:
  Abf a sudden, / [6] _____ */*
  [7] _____ *, / Luckily,*
  … really (good)
  … incredibly (beautiful)
  … completely (lost)
- Use a summarising statement to begin or end your story:
  I'll never forget [8] _____ *I first saw … /*
  the time I decided to … / when I first went … /
  … was an event I'll never forget.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 Read the extracts from different stories. Find and correct three mistakes in each.

1 I was 14 years old then I first became interested in archaeology. I was looking for fossils one Sunday afternoon when I made the discovery that made me famous. I am never forget the feeling of seeing it there in the ground for the first time. It was awesome?

2 We were in the Chemistry lab at school when we noticed the strange smell. All of a suddenly , there was a loud bang. What is going on? Our teacher walked in from a lab next to ours. Her hair was a mess and her glasses were black with smoke. Lucky , she was more shocked than hurt. 'What happened, Miss?' asked one of my classmates.

3 The school trip to the science museum is a day I'll never remember . We had a great time at the museum. When we were going back to meet the others at the bus to go home, my friend and I got stuck in a lift. The lights went off and the alarm didn't work. We were on trouble. What we were going to do?

6 SPEAKING Choose one of the extracts in Exercise 5 and say what you think happened next.

7 Complete the LANGUAGE FOCUS with the underlined linkers in the story.

LANGUAGE FOCUS

Informal linkers

In narrative stories we often use:

- *I have to say* or [1] *I must admit* to emphasise the next piece of information.
- *Anyhow* or [2] _____ to change the subject or move the story on.
- *Actually* or [3] _____ to show that the next piece of information is surprising.
- *And, but, because,* [4] _____ to join parts of sentences.
- *Then, when, while,* [5] _____ to make the order of events clear.

8 Read the story and choose the correct option.

'This is a bad start', I thought and looked again at the directions on my phone. I was trying to find the city hospital for my first day of work experience in the IT department there. Unfortunately, I was very late and totally lost.

[1] *I have to say /Anyhow* it was my fault. I forgot to check the route the day before. [2] *During/ Anyway* , my phone said to turn right, but [3] *in fact /I have to say* there was no right turn, just a wall! What was I going to do? I was already ten minutes late. 'Go back to the main road and try again,' I thought 'and go quickly!' I hurried along as fast as I could. I was turning a corner [4] *then/ when* suddenly there was a bang [5] *and /so* everything went black.

[6] *When /I must admit* I opened my eyes, there were four worried faces looking down at me. 'Are you alright?' 'Yes, I think so', I said. My head hurt. [7] *Then /While* I remembered the bang and the darkness. 'What happened?'

'Well, you were hurrying along looking at your phone, and you bumped into that tree. We thought you should go to hospital so we've called an ambulance.'

Luckily, the doctor said I was fine. [8] *Anyway/ I must admit* that was not how I expected to arrive at the hospital for my first day of work experience!

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

9 Do the writing task. Use the ideas in the WRITING FOCUS and the LANGUAGE FOCUS to help you.

Your teacher has asked you to write a story ending with: *I was so relieved. It was finally over!*

Use the questions below to help you.

- Where were you?
- When was it?
- Who was with you?
- What happened?
- What could you see and hear?
- How did you feel?
- What did you do next?
- How did it end?

Remember to:

- give your story a title.
- make your story interesting for the reader.
- give your story a strong ending.

It was a chilly autumn morning …

LIVEWORKSHEETS