

Putting words together...



- ▶ If you do something bad **by accident** or **by mistake**, you do it without wanting to do it.
- ▶ If you **get confused**, you understand something in the wrong way.
- ▶ When a machine **goes wrong**, it stops working.
- ▶ If a machine, especially one in a public place, is **out of order**, you cannot use it because it has stopped working.

Exercise 4

Complete the paragraph. Listen and check.

I had a bad day yesterday. At breakfast, I ¹ spilled coffee all down my shirt. Then I was late leaving my apartment and ² _____ my train. I had to wait half an hour for the next one! On the train, I accidentally sat on my new glasses and ³ _____ them.

At work, it was no better! First, I sent an email to the wrong person by ⁴ _____. Then, the printer kept going ⁵ _____ and I couldn't print a document that I needed. Finally, on the way home, I ⁶ _____ my book on the train.

Exercise 5

Match the first part of each sentence (1–6) with the second (a–f).

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| 1 My plane was delayed | a finding her address. |
| 2 I had trouble | b by mistake. |
| 3 I got confused and | c burned it. |
| 4 I opened your letter | d called her the wrong name. |
| 5 I got to the station late and missed | e by five hours. |
| 6 I left the cake in the oven too long and | f the train! |

Asking about problems



To ask why an object is broken or damaged, say:

- ▶ *What happened to the plate?*
- ▶ *How did you do that?*

To ask why a machine is not working, say:

- ▶ *What's the matter with the printer?*
- ▶ *What's wrong with the printer?*

Exercise 6

Match each sentence (1–6) with a reply (a–f).

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| 1 I've lost my umbrella. | a I had an accident yesterday – I fell off my bike and hurt it. |
| 2 What happened to your watch? | b Oh, I dropped it yesterday and the glass broke! |
| 3 All three toilets are out of order. | c Here, borrow mine. You'll need it – it's raining. |
| 4 What happened to your skirt? | d I tore it while I was cycling. |
| 5 Your leg looks bad! How did you do that? | e You're pressing the wrong button! |
| 6 What's wrong with the TV?
I can't turn it on. | f Oh no, we'll have to go somewhere else! |

Use the words you've learned...

Talk or write about any problems or accidents you have had recently.