a Put the verbs from the list into the story in the past simple, past perfect, or past continuous.

1 come 2 win 3 become 4 notice 5 not sweat 6 investigate 7 see 8 say 9 see 10 take 11 finish 12 cheat

ROSIE RUIZ

ON APRIL 21 1980, 23-year-old Rosie Ruiz 1 _____ first in the Boston Marathon. She 2 _____ the race in the third-fastest time ever recorded for a female runner (two hours, 31 minutes, 56 seconds).

However, the organizers 3 _____ suspicious, because they 4 _____ that when she crossed the finishing line she 5 _____ at all.

When they 6 _____ they found out that none of the course officials 7 _____ her passing checkpoints. Other competitors didn't remember seeing her at all.

Then a few spectators 8 _____ that they 9 _____ Ruiz join the race just for the final kilometre. She had simply sprinted from there to the finish line.

The marathon organizers 10 _____ away Ruiz's medal and gave it to Jacqueline Gareau, who 11 _____ second in the race.

Later they also found out that Ruiz 12 _____ in the New York Marathon, the race she used to qualify for the Boston event, earlier in the same year but in a different way…

a Put the verbs from the list into the story in the past simple, past perfect, or past continuous.

1 compete 2 wait 3 notice 4 begin 5 win 6 beat 7 say 8 last 9 take 10 take 11 give 12 discover

Ben Johnson

In the Seoul Olympics in 1988, the Canadian runner Ben Johnson was running in the 100 metres final. People called it 'the race of the century' because Johnson 1 _____ against his greatest rival – the American sprinter, Carl Lewis.

When the runners 2 _____ to start the race, some people 3 _____ that Johnson's eyes were yellow.

The race 4 _____ and moments later Johnson was the Olympic champion. His time of 9.72 seconds was a new world record. Johnson was euphoric, because he 5 _____ the gold medal and 6 _____ his American rival, Carl Lewis. After the race, Johnson 7 _____ : 'My name is Benjamin Sinclair Johnson Jnr and this world record will last 50 years, maybe 100 years.'

But he was wrong. His world record 8 _____ only a few hours. That evening, drug tests showed that Johnson 9 _____ steroids before the race.

The Olympic committee 10 _____ away his gold medal and 11 _____ it to Carl Lewis. Johnson was also banned from athletics for two years.

But fifteen years later people 12 _____ some amazing news about Carl Lewis…

LIVEWORKSHEETS

a Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets: past simple, past continuous, or past perfect.

My exam **nightmare**

I [1] *woke up* (wake up) on the morning of the maths exam with a horrible feeling in my stomach. I knew that I [2] _____ (not study) enough the night before and that I was going to fail.

When I left home it [3] _____ (rain) and there was a lot of traffic. I [4] _____ (arrive) five minutes late and the exam [5] _____ (already / start). I sat down quickly and looked at the questions. I [6] _____ (not can) answer any of them! It was the most difficult exam the teacher [7] _____ (ever / give) us.

I [8] _____ (sit) next to one of my friends called Sophie and I could see that she [9] _____ (write) very quickly. She was great at maths. Suddenly I had an idea. I [10] _____ (look) at the teacher, Mr Everitt. He [11] _____ (stand) by the window and he [12] _____ (not look) at us. I wrote a message on a piece of paper and [13] _____ (throw) it to Sophie. It said 'I need help.' Sophie [14] _____ (already / finish) the exam. She copied the answers on a piece of paper and quickly passed it to me.

The following day Mr Everitt [15] _____ (call) us both to his room. We saw that he [16] _____ (hold) my exam paper, and Sophie's, too. He told us that we [17] _____ (both / fail) the exam. We [18] _____ (write) exactly the same answers for every question, including several wrong answers.

b Cover the text and try to remember the story.

LIVEWORKSHEETS