

A Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 He stopped running, took the mobile phone out of his pocket and _____ (throw) it into the river.
- 2 The family _____ (sit) in the garden when they heard the blast.
- 3 Jane couldn't believe that she _____ (make) such a dangerous journey on her own.
- 4 Everyone was exhausted because they _____ (run) for miles.
- 5 She jumped up and _____ (chase) the thief down the street.
- 6 It was the perfect location. Palm trees _____ (sway) gently and the sun _____ (shine) brightly.
- 7 They were getting ready for bed when they _____ (hear) a knock at the door.
- 8 Throughout their ordeal, they _____ (keep) calm.

B Read the writing task below. Write T (True) or F (False) for each of the statements that follow.

Write a story which begins with this sentence: *Everyone was scared to death.* (100 words)

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|--|--|
| 1 The story will involve several people. <input type="checkbox"/> | 4 You can begin the story any way you like. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 It will be about a frightening situation. <input type="checkbox"/> | 5 The story will probably have suspense. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Someone must die in the story. <input type="checkbox"/> | |

C Read the example story and circle the correct words.

Everyone was scared to death. They were trapped in the darkest cave they (1) **had ever seen** / **ever seen** after getting lost on a school trip.

The students (2) **had screamed** / **were screaming** loudly as pieces of rock fell to the ground. Luckily, no one (3) **was** / **was being** injured.

Toby had never been in such an extreme situation before, but he (4) **had been keeping** / **kept** very calm.

All of a sudden, he (5) **remembered** / **was remembering** that he had his mobile phone. His teacher (6) **had told** / **told** everyone to leave their phones in the tent but Toby (7) **decided** / **had decided** to secretly bring his.

As quick as lightning, Toby (8) **was running** / **ran** to his bag and found the phone. He called his mum and (9) **explained** / **had explained** the situation. 'Don't worry,' she said 'Rescue teams are already looking for you.' Toby smiled and immediately (10) **told** / **was telling** everyone the good news.

D Read the model story again and write T (True) or F (False).

- 1 The writer hasn't used the given sentence properly.
- 2 The story describes why everyone was so scared.
- 3 Narrative tenses have been used.
- 4 The writer uses special phrases to create suspense.
- 5 By the end of the story the students are completely safe.

E Complete the plan for the example story with these sentences.

- | | | |
|-------------|---|--------------------------|
| Paragraph 1 | a Describe how the plan is carried out and what happens next. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paragraph 2 | b Describe the scene and give more details. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paragraph 3 | c Introduce the main character and a plan of action. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Paragraph 4 | d Use the sentence you were given and say where the story is set. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Useful Expressions

Creating suspense

At that point ...

During the minutes / hours / days that followed ...

All of a sudden ...

As quick as lightning, / As fast as he could, ...

He'd never been in such an extreme situation.

Without thinking, ...

There was no sign of ...

He thought of a plan.

To make things worse, ...

They were just about to give up when ...

F Match 1-6 with a-f to make sentences using some of the *Useful Expressions*.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1 As quick as | a sign of a rescue team. |
| 2 Without | b time on, they knew they only had each other. |
| 3 From that | c lightning, she ran to the car. |
| 4 There was no | d plan that would save them. |
| 5 Then, she thought of a | e point the ambulance turned up. |
| 6 At that | f thinking, he went to the injured man. |