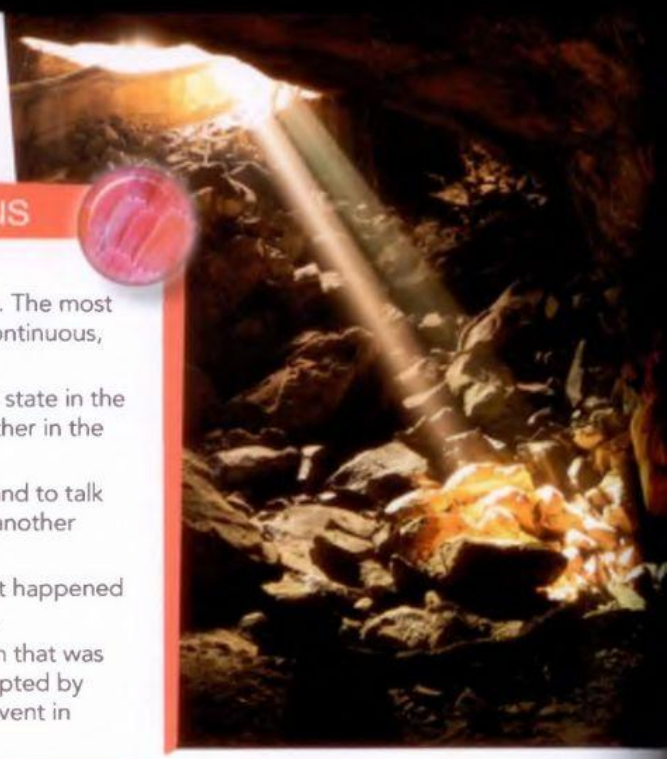
7 Extreme Situations

Writing: a story (2)



Learning Focus

Using narrative tenses

To write stories based in the past, we use narrative tenses. The most common narrative tenses are the Past Simple, the Past Continuous, the Past Perfect Simple and the Past Perfect Continuous.

- Use the Past Simple to talk about a completed action / state in the past, a series of actions that happened one after the other in the past or to take the action of the story further.
- Use the Past Continuous to set the scene of the story and to talk about an action that was in progress in the past when another action interrupted it.
- Use the Past Perfect Simple to talk about an action that happened before the time of the narrative or another past action.
- Use the Past Perfect Continuous to talk about an action that was in progress for some time in the past which was interrupted by another past action, or which had an effect on a later event in the past.

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)

1 The story will involve several people. ☐
2 It will be about a frightening situation. ☐
3 Someone must die in the story. ☐
4 You can begin the story any way you like. ☐
5 The story will probably have suspense. ☐

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 lightening, 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS