Bethany Hamilton's story

Past Simple Practice

1) Match these phrasal verbs to their meaning.

1 get up [ ] continue
2 give up [ ] get out of bed
3 get back [ ] stop
4 go on [ ] return

2) Look at the *Sign up to* Grammar box. Then read this interview with Bethany Hamilton and fill in the gaps with the correct past form of the verbs in brackets.

Simon: When (1) _____ you _____ (start) surfing, Bethany?

Bethany: I (2) _____ (begin) when I was about five years old.

Simon: And when (3) _____ you _____ (win) your first competition?

Bethany: I (4) _____ (win) my first competition when I was eight.

Simon: I (5) _____ (hear) that you had a terrible accident... Would you like to tell us about that?

Bethany: Yes, I remember that day very well. It (6) _____ (be) the year 2003. I (7) _____ (get up) very early and (8) _____ (go) surfing. That day... a shark nearly (9) _____ (eat) me for breakfast!

Simon: Oh, that sounds terrible! (10) _____ you _____ (lose) consciousness?

Bethany: No, I (11) _____ (not do). I remember everything: it was a tiger shark. Luckily, I was with friends and they helped me back to the coast, but, as you know, I (12) _____ (lose) my left arm.

Simon: I'm sure it was a frightening experience, but you (13) _____ (not give up) after the accident.

Bethany: Oh, no. Definitely not. I can't live without surfing. It (14) _____ (not be) easy but I (15) _____ (get back) on my board four weeks after the attack. I (16) _____ (not feel) afraid at all. On top of that, I (17) _____ (win) the ESPY Award for Best Comeback Athlete of the Year.

Simon: Congratulations! What are your plans for the future?

Bethany: I'd like to go on surfing, writing books – I have a total of nine books, including my own autobiography – and helping kids. I (18) _____ (go) to Thailand in 2005 after the tsunami to help kids. I want to do more of that.

Simon: Well Bethany, I wish you lots of luck with your future plans.

Bethany: Thank you!

3) Read the interview again and number the events from 1-5.

[ ] A shark attacked her.
[ ] Bethany started surfing.
[ ] She wrote her first book.
[ ] She went to Thailand to work with kids.
[ ] She won an award for Best Comeback Athlete of the Year.
[ ] She lost her left arm.

4) Let's talk about Bethany. Write true (T) or false (F) and correct the false sentences.

1 [ ] She won her first competition when she was 12.

_____

2 [ ] She saw the shark.

_____

3 [ ] She lost her left leg.

_____

4 [ ] After her accident, she gave up surfing.

_____

5 [ ] She wrote three books.

_____

6 [ ] She travelled to Thailand.

_____

5) Listening

Now listen to Bethany's mother talking about the shark attack. Then read the statements below and write true (T) or false (F).

1 [ ] Before the accident, Bethany and her mum had breakfast together.
2 [ ] Bethany's mum stayed at home when she heard the ambulance siren.
3 [ ] Bethany was in hospital for fifteen days.
4 [ ] Bethany's mum is afraid of sharks now.
5 [ ] Bethany's mum is worried about Bethany.