Reading: a story

1 Read the story. Put the events in order.



The Girl Who Needed A Break

What an awful Monday! One of the worst. Sally was at her friend's house to do some homework. 'What can I do, Mira?' Sally said. 'I felt awful last week. I felt awful yesterday. I feel awful today. I've got this awful cough, Mira. And this awful cold. And this awful headache. And this awful earache. And this awful stomach-ache. Really, I feel quite awful.'

Mira looked at Sally and smiled. 'Sally,' Mira said, 'there is nothing wrong with you! There was nothing wrong with you last week. There was nothing wrong with you yesterday. There is nothing wrong with you today.'

'Um, I don't understand. What do you mean?'

Mira smiled again. 'Sally,' Mira said, 'you're tired! That's all. You worked very hard last week. You worked very hard yesterday. You worked very hard today. You always work very hard, Sally. You're the best student in the school.'

'I try hard. That's all.'

'But there is something you're not very good at.'

'Really?' Sally wanted to be good at everything. 'What's that?'

'The most important part of studying hard is *not* studying hard. You need to take breaks, Sally. You need a rest.'

'A rest!' Sally said. 'A rest, Mira? But I can't have rests! I've got too many exams to study for. I've got to learn all about the Incas of Peru and food chains in rainforests and how people feel when they have a fever. I can't have a rest. Let's not talk about breaks or rests. What I need is something for this awful cough, and this awful cold, and this awful headache, and this awful earache, and this awful …'

a Mira tells Sally that she needs a rest. ☐

b Mira says that Sally is not unwell. ☐

c Sally says that she doesn't understand. ☐

d Sally says that she is unwell. [1]

e Mira tells Sally that she is very tired. ☐

f Sally tells Mira that she has to study for her exams. ☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Writing

1 **Complete the table with the information from the box.**

Sally, Mira Mira's house Monday ~~The Girl Who Needed A Break~~
Sally says she is unwell but Mira says she is OK.

The title (what the story is called)	The Girl Who Needed A Break
The characters (the people in the story)	
The plot (what happens in the story)	
The setting (the place where the story happens)	
The time frame (when the story happens)	

2 **You are going to write a short story in the past simple. Before you write your story, plan it by making notes about:**

- The title.
- The characters.
- The plot.
- The setting.
- The time frame.

3 **Now write your short story. Use the story of Sally and your notes from Activity 2 to help you.**

Help with Writing

Writing stories is all about making something interesting for the reader. Writers try to catch the attention of their readers immediately, from the very first sentence. Try to write a first sentence that makes a reader want to read the rest of the story!

LIVEWORKSHEETS