✨ ***The Man with the Umbrella*** **(Vocabulary highlighted)**

The clock had just **struck eleven** when Naomi stepped off the late train. The platform was deserted, **save for** the distant hum of fluorescent lights and the rhythmic dripping of rain onto the metal roof. She adjusted her coat and tightened her grip on her suitcase. Something about the silence **felt orchestrated**.

As she moved toward the exit, a tall man emerged from the shadows, holding a black umbrella and wearing an expression far too calm for someone waiting in such a place. He didn't speak at first—just smiled.

"Miss Archer?" he asked, as if he'd known her name all along.

Naomi froze. No one should've known she was arriving tonight. She had changed her travel plans last minute, told no one—**not even her sister**.

"I think you're mistaken," she replied, **feigning confusion**.

The man **tilted his head**, slightly amused. "Funny. You look exactly like someone I was sent to find."

Before Naomi could respond, a security guard appeared, casually **walking his beat**. The man with the umbrella nodded politely, then **vanished into the night**, his footsteps silent on the wet pavement.

Only later, when she reached her hotel, did she notice the folded piece of paper **slipped into** the side of her suitcase.

It read: **"Be careful who you trust."**

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🔤 **Match the phrases to their meanings:**

A. Phrases from the story:

1. Struck eleven
2. Save for
3. Felt orchestrated
4. Feigning confusion
5. Tilted his head
6. Walk his beat
7. Vanished into the night
8. Slipped into
9. Be careful who you trust

B. Meanings:

a. Pretending not to understand something
b. A way to describe the exact hour in a dramatic or literary style
c. Seemed suspiciously planned
d. Put something secretly into a space or container
e. Gesture often used to show curiosity or doubt
f. Disappeared suddenly and mysteriously
g. A warning to stay alert and not rely on others too easily
h. Except for
i. Doing a regular security or police check

☑ **Answers:**

1 → _____
2 → _____
3 → _____
4 → _____
5 → _____
6 → _____

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7 → _____
8 → _____
9 → _____

✍️ **Answer the following questions in your own words:**

1. What time did Naomi arrive at the station, and what was the atmosphere like?

   _____

2. Why was she surprised when the man approached her?

   _____

3. What did the man call her, and how did she respond?

   _____

4. What detail made Naomi certain no one should have known about her trip?

   _____

5. How did the man behave after the security guard appeared?

   _____

6. What mysterious object did Naomi find later, and what did it say?

   _____

7. What is the possible significance of the umbrella in the story?

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8. Do you think the man knew who Naomi really was? Why or why not?

📚 **Grammar Focus: Narrative Tenses (Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect)**

Target: Using narrative tenses to build atmosphere, show sequence, and emphasize backstory

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🧠 **Grammar Explanation**

When telling stories or describing past events in detail, especially in suspenseful or literary writing, we often use a **mix of narrative tenses**:

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1. Past Simple – for the main events or actions

🔴 *She stepped off the train. He asked her name.*

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2. Past Continuous – for background actions or atmosphere

🟢 *Rain was falling. He was standing in the shadows.*

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3. Past Perfect – to show an earlier past or backstory

🔵 *She had changed her plans. No one had known she was arriving.*

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⚖️ When do we use which tense?

Tense	Use	Example
Past Simple	Main actions in the story, one after another	*She entered the station and looked around.*
Past Continuous	Describes the scene or interrupted actions	*The rain was falling as she walked.*
Past Perfect	Action that happened before another past action	*She had already bought the ticket before she changed her mind.*

🔍 From the story:

"The clock **had just struck** eleven when Naomi **stepped** off the late train."

"She **had changed** her travel plans last minute."

"A security guard **was walking** his beat."

📝 Grammar Exercise 1 – Choose the Correct Tense

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. When she _____ (arrive), the lights _____ (already/go) out.
2. He _____ (wait) near the gate when she _____ (see) him.
3. She _____ (tell) no one that she _____ (plan) to leave.
4. I _____ (just/finish) my coffee when the phone _____ (ring).
5. The man _____ (stand) in the rain, but he _____ (not/seem) to mind.

📝 Grammar Exercise 2 – Rewrite the Sentences Using Narrative Tenses

Rewrite the sentences using **past simple, past continuous,** and **past perfect** as needed.

1. I left the house. Then I realized I didn't have my keys.

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2. The lights went out. We were having dinner.

3. She saw a man. He stood under a tree.

4. He finished the letter. Then he put it in his coat pocket.

5. I walked into the station. I noticed something strange.

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