

# 1 A lucky escape: event ordering

You are going to read a short text about a family's lucky escape. First look at the events in the story and decide what order is likely.

We decided to go to the funfair instead.

I made sandwiches.

My mother phoned to postpone our trip.

There was an accident at the fun-fair.

We went home.

My father caught a cold.

We got up.

We arranged to visit my parents in London.

We bought ice-cream for the children.

We arrived at the train station.

Sally got the children ready.

We left the house.

The train left the station.

## 2 A lucky escape: gap fill

Now read the description of the events and choose the correct tenses for the verbs in brackets.  
Were your guesses about the sequence of events right?

It was a Sunday morning and we (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (get up) early.  
We (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (arrange) to take the children to London to visit my parents.  
We (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (shower), had breakfast and while I (1) \_\_\_\_\_  
(make) some sandwiches to take with us, Sally (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (get) the children  
ready.

The train left at 8.20, so at eight o'clock we (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the house to  
walk to the village station. Just as we (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (go out) of the door, the phone  
(8) \_\_\_\_\_ (ring). It was my mother calling to say that my father had caught a  
cold and to ask if we could postpone our trip.

Of course I (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (agree), but the children were very disappointed. In the  
end, Sally suggested taking the train to another town about a hundred kilometres away  
where we could go to the funfair. We (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (set off) for the station rather  
late but unfortunately when we finally (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (get) there, the train (12)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (already / leave).

There was nothing we could do as the next train didn't leave until midday, so  
we (13) \_\_\_\_\_ (go)t home. We had to buy ice-cream to keep the children  
quiet. That evening we (14) \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) on the news that there  
(15) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) an accident at the funfair and twenty-five people  
(16) \_\_\_\_\_ (kill). It was the luckiest escape we have ever had.

### 3 A lucky escape: complete text

It was a Sunday morning and **we got up** early. We had arranged to take the children to London to visit my parents. **We showered**, had breakfast and while **I made some sandwiches** to take with us, **Sally got** the children ready.

The train left at 8.20, so at eight o'clock we left the house to walk to the village station. Just **as we were going** out of the door, **the phone rang**. It was my mother calling to say that **my father had caught a cold** and to ask if we could postpone our trip.

Of course **I agreed**, but the children were very disappointed. In the end, Sally suggested taking the train to another town about a hundred kilometres away where we could go to the fun-fair. **We set off for the station** rather late but unfortunately **when we finally got to the station, the train had already left**.

There was nothing we could do as the next train didn't leave until midday, so **we went home**. We had to buy ice-cream to keep the children quiet. That evening **we heard** on the news that **there had been an accident** at the fun-fair and **twenty-five people had been killed**. It was the luckiest escape we have ever had.