


## It's a long story.


- ▶ Tell stories
- ▶ Discuss recent activities

## 1 SNAPSHOT

True Stories of Incredible Coincidences



One day, the American novelist Anne Parrish was in a bookstore in Paris and she saw an old, used copy of one of her favorite childhood books. When she opened it, she saw on the first page: "Anne Parrish, 209 N. Weber Street, Colorado Springs." It was Anne's own book.



A 10-year-old girl named Laura Buxton released a bunch of balloons into the air. She attached a note to the balloons that asked the person who found it to write back to her. A couple of weeks later, she received a reply. It was from another 10-year-old girl also named Laura Buxton who lived 150 miles away.

Which of these stories do you think is more amazing? more difficult to believe?  
Have you ever had an experience that is hard to believe?  
Do you know of anyone who has? What happened?

## 2 PERSPECTIVES What next?

- ▶ A Listen to what happened to these people. Check (✓) the things that have happened to you.

- ☐ "I was having lunch when I spilled a cup of coffee on my clothes."
- ☐ "I was driving to the airport to pick up a friend, but I got a flat tire."
- ☐ "I was studying for an important test when the lights went out."
- ☐ "While I was walking down the street, I found a wallet with lots of money."
- ☐ "I was traveling in another country when I met an old school friend."
- ☐ "I was getting off a bus when I slipped and fell on the sidewalk."
- ☐ "While I was shopping one day, a celebrity walked into the store."



- B Choose one statement that you checked. What happened next?  
"I tried to clean it, but I couldn't. So I had to wear a jacket for the rest of the day."

## 3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

## ▶ Past continuous vs. simple past

Use the past continuous for an action in progress in the past.

Use the simple past for an action that interrupts it.

I **was having** lunch when I **spilled** coffee on my clothes.  
I **was driving** to the airport, but I **got** a flat tire.  
While I **was shopping** one day, a celebrity **walked** into the store.

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## A Complete these sentences. Then compare with a partner.

- My sister \_\_\_\_\_ (text) while she \_\_\_\_\_ (drive), and she almost \_\_\_\_\_ (crash) her car.
- While I \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner last night, a friend \_\_\_\_\_ (call) and I \_\_\_\_\_ (burn) the food.
- My father \_\_\_\_\_ (ski) when he \_\_\_\_\_ (break) his leg in several places.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ (have) our first child while we \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in a tiny apartment.
- While I \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) in England a few years ago, I \_\_\_\_\_ (realize) I was on the wrong side of the road!
- Once I \_\_\_\_\_ (read) a good book, but someone \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) me the ending.
- My parents \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) each other while they \_\_\_\_\_ (work) at the same restaurant in Vancouver.



## B Complete these statements with information about yourself. Use the simple past or the past continuous.

- I was taking a selfie when ...
- While I was going home one day, ...
- I was ...
- While I was ...
- Last month, ...
- Some time ago, ...

## C PAIR WORK Take turns reading your sentences from part B. Then ask and answer follow-up questions.

- A: I was taking a selfie when a man came and stole my phone.  
B: Oh, no! What did you do?  
A: I went to the police ... and they told me to be more careful.





## 4 LISTENING How did it all begin?

▶ **A** Listen to this story about a successful inventor. Put the sentences into the correct order from 1 to 8.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 Mark Zuckerberg started writing computer programs. | _____ Zuckerberg wrote his very own messenger program. |
| _____ His friends invested in Facebook.              | _____ He created a program that recommended music.     |
| _____ He didn't accept Microsoft's offer.            | _____ Three classmates asked for his help.             |
| _____ He invented FaceMash.                          |  |
| _____ Facebook became available to the public.       |  |

▶ **B** Listen again. How did the invention change his life?

**C PAIR WORK** Think of other websites and apps that were successful inventions.

## 5 WORD POWER What happened?

**A** Some adverbs are often used in storytelling to emphasize that something interesting is about to happen. Which of these adverbs are positive (**P**)? Which are negative (**N**)? Which could be either (**E**)?

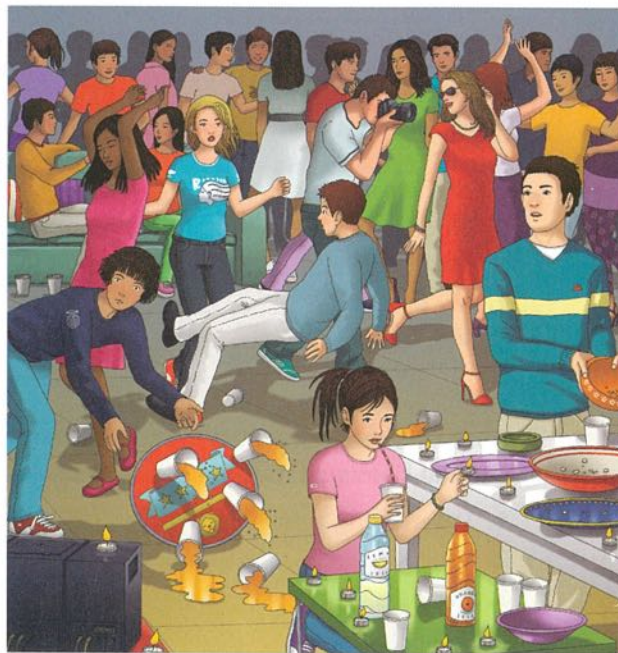
coincidentally _____	strangely _____
fortunately _____	suddenly _____
luckily _____	surprisingly _____
miraculously _____	unexpectedly _____
sadly _____	unfortunately _____

**B PAIR WORK** Complete these statements with adverbs from part A to make up creative sentences.

We were having a party when, ...  
I was walking down the street when, ...  
It started out as a normal day, but, ...

**A:** We were having a party when, suddenly, the lights went out!

**B:** Once I was dancing at a party when, unfortunately, I fell down!



## 6 WRITING What's your story?

**A** Write a short story about something that happened to you recently. Try to include some of the adverbs from Exercise 5.

I was shopping at a big department store when, suddenly, I saw a little girl crying in a corner all by herself. The girl said she couldn't find her mother. I was taking her to the store manager when I saw an old school friend running towards me. Coincidentally, she was the girl's mother, and ...

**B GROUP WORK** Take turns reading your stories. Answer any questions from the group.

## 7 CONVERSATION What have you been doing?

▶ **A** Listen and practice.

**Steve:** Hey, Luiza! I haven't seen you in ages. What have you been doing lately?

**Luiza:** I haven't been going out much. I've been working two jobs for the last six months.

**Steve:** How come?

**Luiza:** I'm saving up money for a trip to Morocco.

**Steve:** Well, that's exciting!

**Luiza:** Yeah, it is. What about you?

**Steve:** Well, I've only been *spending* money. I've been trying to become an actor. I've been taking courses and going to a lot of auditions.

**Luiza:** Really? How long have you been trying?

**Steve:** Since I graduated. But I haven't had any luck yet. No one recognizes my talent.



▶ **B** Listen to two other people at the party. What has happened since they last saw each other?

## 8 GRAMMAR FOCUS

▶ **Present perfect continuous**

Use the **present perfect continuous** for actions that start in the past and continue into the present.

What **have you been doing** lately? I've **been working** two jobs for the last six months.

How long **have you been trying**? I've **been trying** since I graduated.

Have you **been saving** money? No, I **haven't been saving** money. I've **been spending** it!

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**A** Complete the conversations with the present perfect continuous.

1. **A:** \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (learn) any new skills this year?

**B:** Yes, I have. I \_\_\_\_\_ (take) some art courses.

2. **A:** What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) lately?

**B:** Well, I \_\_\_\_\_ (look for) a new job.

3. **A:** How \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) recently?

**B:** Great! I \_\_\_\_\_ (run) three times a week. And I \_\_\_\_\_ (not drink) as much coffee since I stopped working at the coffee shop.

4. **A:** \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (get) enough exercise lately?

**B:** No, I haven't. I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) a lot for a big exam.

**B PAIR WORK** Read the conversations in part A together. Then read them again and answer the questions with your own information.

**A:** Have you been learning any new skills this year?

**B:** Yes, I've been taking guitar lessons.



## 9 PRONUNCIATION Contrastive stress in responses

- ▶ **A** Listen and practice. Notice how the stress changes to emphasize a contrast.
- A:** Has your brother been studying German?      **A:** Have you been teaching French?
- B:** No, I've been studying German.      **B:** No, I've been studying French.
- ▶ **B** Mark the stress changes in these conversations. Listen and check. Then practice the conversations.
- A:** Have you been studying for ten years?      **A:** Have you been studying at school?
- B:** No, I've been studying for two years.      **B:** No, I've been studying at home.

## 10 SPEAKING Tell me about it.

**GROUP WORK** Add three questions to this list. Then take turns asking and answering the questions. Remember to ask for further information.

**Have you been . . . lately?**

traveling  
watching any good TV series  
taking any lessons  
working out  
working long hours  
going out a lot  
staying up late

### useful expressions

Really?  
I didn't know that!  
Oh, I see.  
I had no idea.  
Wow! Tell me more.

- A:** Have you been traveling lately?  
**B:** Yes, I have. I've been going abroad about once a month.  
**C:** Really? Lucky you!  
**B:** Not exactly. I've been traveling for work, not on vacation.



## 11 INTERCHANGE 12 It's my life.

Play a board game. Go to Interchange 12 on page 126.

## 12 READING

- A** Skim the article. What is special about these musicians? How have they influenced other people?

### BREAKING DOWN THE SOUND OF SILENCE

Ten years before he died, the composer Beethoven went deaf. He called this disability his "nightmare." Fortunately for thousands of classical music fans, he didn't stop writing brilliant music. One hundred and eighty years later, being deaf hasn't stopped three Americans – Steve Longo, Ed Chevy, and Bob Hiltermann – from playing music, either. In their case, the music is rock, and their band is called Beethoven's Nightmare.

The three boys grew up in different cities, but they all showed a surprising interest in music. Although they couldn't hear it, they were amazed by the energy of 1960s bands like the Beatles. They could see the effect the music had on the audiences – the happy faces of friends and family as they watched. Something exciting was obviously happening. "I'm going to do that, too," they all said. "Why? You can't hear," asked parents, teachers, and friends alike. Each boy used sign language to answer, "Because I can feel it."

Longo and Chevy started playing the guitar. They put on headphones and turned up the volume. With the help of powerful hearing aids, they

could get some of the notes – the rest they felt through vibrations. Drummer Hiltermann came from a musical family. His parents thought that teaching their son to play an instrument was a waste of time. But they changed their minds after he nearly drove them crazy by using knives and forks to drum on the furniture of the house.

The three men first met in college in Washington, D.C. They started a band and played many concerts until they graduated in 1975. In 2001, Hiltermann had the idea to bring his old friends together again. They have been performing ever since. In 2013, a new member, Paul Raci, joined the band as a singer. At concerts, dancers put on a spectacular show and use sign language to explain the words of the songs to the audience. And, of course, the band plays very loudly!

The group has encouraged many deaf people, and people with other disabilities, to follow their dreams. Chevy says, "The only thing deaf people can't do is hear."



Dennis McCarthy, "Deaf band 'Beethoven's Nightmare' feels the music," Los Angeles Daily News (Oct. 31, 2013). Used with permission.

- B** Read the article. Choose the correct word(s) in the sentences below.
- After going deaf, Beethoven **continued** / **refused** to compose music.
  - The boys knew music was powerful because of something they **read** / **saw**.
  - Many people didn't **understand** / **like** the boys' ambition to play music.
  - Hiltermann's parents **wanted** / **didn't want** him to learn to play at first.
  - The three young men started playing together **before** / **after** finishing college.
- C** Answer the questions.
- Which band inspired the three boys to play music?
  - What did Longo and Chevy use to hear some parts of the music?
  - What did Hiltermann use to make noise in his house?
  - Where did the three men get to know each other?
  - When did Beethoven's Nightmare start playing?
- D** Do you think it's very difficult for people in your country to achieve their dreams? What new technology and facilities make it easier for them?