

Reading: A bad day at the station

Focus: reading a first-person story: past continuous, past simple with when / while, story adverbs

A bad day at the station, by Nina

Last Tuesday I was standing at the station at eight o'clock. It was raining and I was late for work. I was buying a coffee when I noticed a man in a grey jacket. He was standing next to me. Suddenly, he took my bag from the ground and ran. I shouted 'Stop! Thief!', but he escaped quickly across the road.

At first I was very upset. My wallet, my keys and my phone were in the bag. A police officer came immediately and asked me a lot of questions. 'Where were you standing? What was the man wearing?' I answered slowly and carefully. Luckily, the story ended happily. While I was speaking to him, the thief fell over on the wet stairs. He dropped the bag and two police officers caught him. In the end I was two hours late for work, but my boss understood.

1 Read the story. True or false?

1. It was raining at the station.

☐ T ☐ F
2. Nina was buying a ticket when she noticed the man.

☐ T ☐ F
3. The man was wearing a grey jacket.

☐ T ☐ F
4. Nina's phone was at home.

☐ T ☐ F
5. The thief escaped on a bike.

☐ T ☐ F
6. Nina was late for work in the end.

☐ T ☐ F

2 Answer the questions about the story.

Example: Where was Nina at eight o'clock? → She was at the station.

1. What was Nina doing when she noticed the man?

2. What did the man take?

3. Who came immediately?

4. How late was Nina for work?

ANSWER KEY
1 1 T, 2 F, 3 T, 4 F, 5 F, 6 T 2 1 She was buying a coffee. | 2 He took her bag. | 3 A police officer came immediately. | 4 She was two hours late.