

12 It could happen to you!

1 SNAPSHOT

Success Stories

 <p>Michael Jeffrey Jordan Born: February 17, 1963, in Brooklyn, New York Education: B.A. from the University of North Carolina</p>	 <p>Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone Born: August 16, 1958, in Bay City, Michigan Education: Two years at the University of Michigan</p>	 <p>William Henry Gates III Born: October 28, 1955, in Seattle, Washington Education: Harvard University dropout</p>
<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally considered the greatest basketball player of all time • Star of three films and author of two books 	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the most successful artists in the history of pop music • Won a Golden Globe award for her role in <i>Evita</i> 	<p>Accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At 19, founded Microsoft Corporation, the world's leading software company • At 31, became the world's youngest billionaire


Sources: www.biography.com; www.people.com

What else do you know about these people?

Which is the most impressive accomplishment of each person?

Name three successful people from your country. What have they accomplished?

2 PERSPECTIVES *It happened to me!*

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

- "I was watching a really good movie, but I fell asleep before the end."
- "I was working at a boring job when someone offered me a much better one."
- "While I was shopping one day, a celebrity walked into the store."
- "I was traveling in another country when I met an old school friend."
- "While I was waiting in line, a TV reporter asked to interview me for the news!"
- "I was getting off a bus when I slipped and fell in some mud."
- "While I was walking down the street, I found a wallet full of money."

B Look at the statements again. Which events are lucky? Which are unlucky?

"I hate to fall asleep during a good movie. That's definitely unlucky!"

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 a completed action.

I **was watching** a good movie,
I **was working** at a boring job
While I **was shopping** one day,

but I **fell** asleep before the end.
when someone **offered** me a much better one.
a celebrity **walked** into the store.

A Complete these sentences. Then compare with a partner.

1. My brother (snowboard) when he (break) his leg in several places.
2. Several years ago, I (have) problems with math, so I (find) a tutor to help me.
3. The couple (have) their first child when they (live) in a tiny apartment.
4. While I (drive) in Ireland a few years ago, I (realize) I was on the wrong side of the road!
5. Ulrike (read) a good book, but someone (tell) her the ending.
6. While my mother (cook) dinner last night, the phone (ring) three times and then (stop).
7. Tracy and Eric (meet) when they (work) at the same restaurant in Vancouver.

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

1. During my childhood, . . .
2. When I was going to elementary school, . . .
3. I met my best friend while . . .
4. Two years ago, . . .
5. Last month, . . .

C Pair work Take turns reading your sentences from part B. Then ask and answer follow-up questions.

A: During my childhood, my family was living in Chile.

B: Oh, really? That's interesting. What were they doing there?

A: My father was working for a mining company.

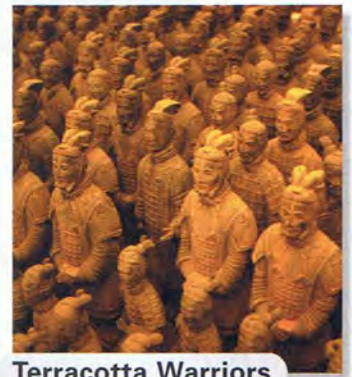


4

LISTENING *Lucky breaks*

A Listen to these stories about lucky breaks. What were the people doing before they got their lucky breaks? What was their lucky break?

	What they were doing	Lucky break
1. Yang Zhifa
2. Gwyneth Paltrow



Terracotta Warriors

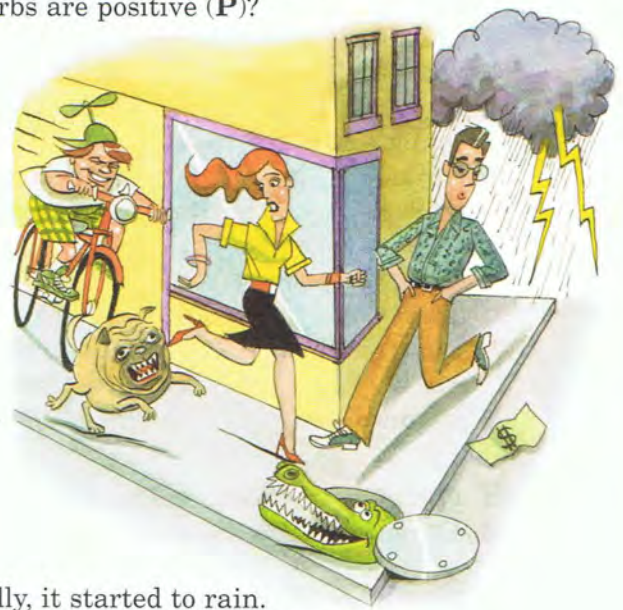
B Listen again. How did the events change their lives?

5

WORD POWER *Storytelling*

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 are neutral (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.

- I was walking down the street when, . . .
- It started out as a normal day, but, . . .
- We were on our way to the party when, . . .

- A: I was walking down the street when, unexpectedly, it started to rain.
- B: Or, I was walking down the street when, suddenly, I found twenty dollars!

6

WRITING *A short 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 visiting the coast last year when, unexpectedly, I got a chance to go kayaking. Fortunately, it was a perfect day and I was having a great time. The water was calm and I was beginning to feel a little tired when, suddenly, . . .

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.

Pete: Hey, Gina! I haven't seen you in ages.
What have you been doing lately?
Gina: Nothing exciting. I've been working
two jobs for the last six months.
Pete: How come?
Gina: I'm saving up money for a trip to Morocco.
Pete: Well, that's exciting.
Gina: Yeah, it is. What about you?
Pete: Well, I've only been *spending* money. I'm
pursuing a full-time modeling career.
Gina: Really? How long have you been modeling?
Pete: Since I graduated. But I haven't been getting any
work. I need a job soon. I'm almost out of money!



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

A Complete the conversations with the present perfect continuous. Then practice with a partner.

- A: What you (do) lately?
B: Well, I (spend) my free time at the beach.
- A: you (work) part time this year?
B: Yes, I have. I (make) drinks at Coffee Time for the past few months.
- A: How you (feel) recently?
B: Great! I (get) a lot of sleep. And I (not eat) as much since I started my diet.
- A: you (get) enough exercise lately?
B: No, I haven't. I (study) a lot for a big exam.

B Pair work Take turns asking the questions in part A. Give your own information.



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 four questions to this list. Then take turns asking and answering the questions. Remember to ask for further information.

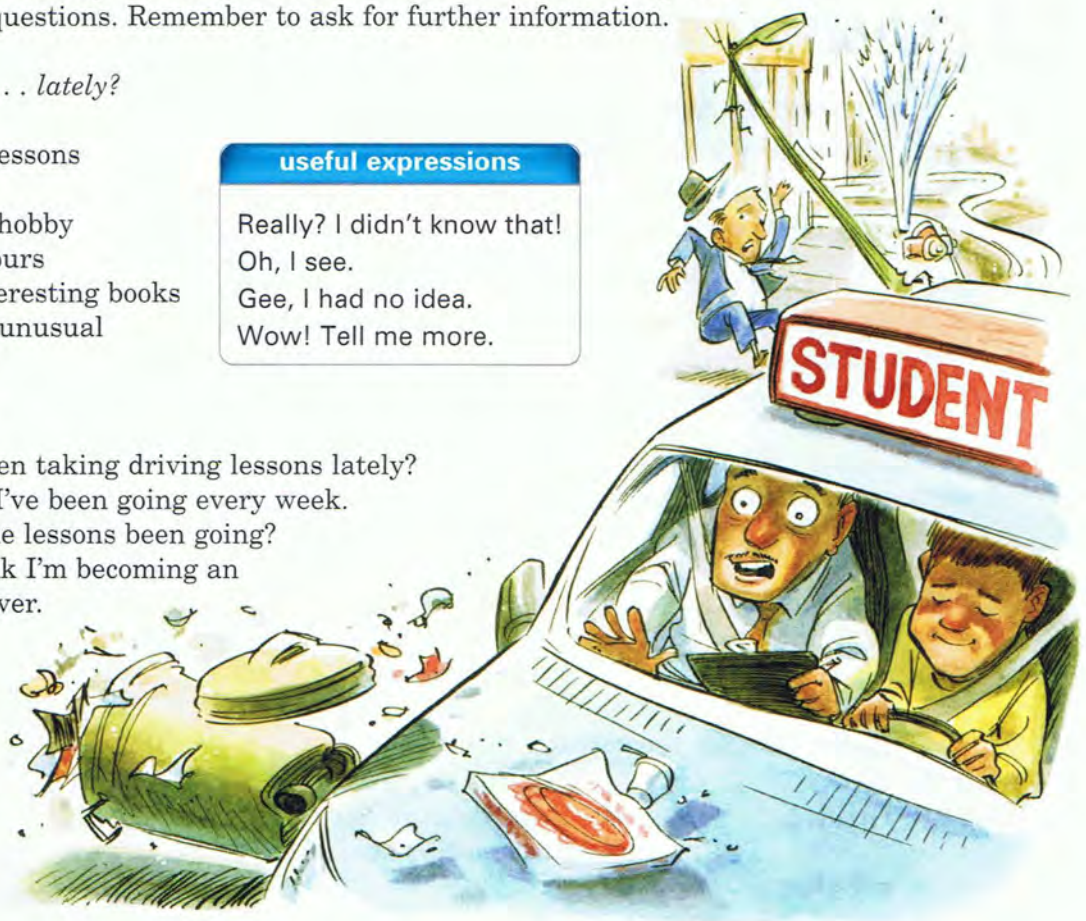
Have you been . . . lately?

taking driving lessons
working out
learning a new hobby
working long hours
reading any interesting books
doing anything unusual
traveling
dating anyone

useful expressions

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

A: Have you been taking driving lessons lately?
B: Yes, I have. I've been going every week.
C: How have the lessons been going?
B: Great! I think I'm becoming an excellent driver.



11

INTERCHANGE 12 *Life is like a game!*

Play a board game. Go to Interchange 12.

CHILD Prodigies

Look at the pictures and skim the article. Which child do you think is an artist? a musician? a college graduate?



Other musicians have described Sarah Chang as “the most wonderful, perfect violinist” they’ve ever heard. What makes this praise especially surprising is Sarah’s age. She’s only in her twenties, and people have been describing her this way since she was a child. On Sarah’s fourth birthday, her father gave her a violin. By age 5, she was accepted at the famous Juilliard School of Music in New York City. By 8, she was performing as a violin soloist with major orchestras. Since then, Sarah has performed around the world and recorded many albums.



Before Michael Kearney was born, the doctors warned his parents that he might have learning difficulties. He’s been proving them wrong ever since! By the time he was 4 months old, Michael could say full sentences like, “What’s for dinner, Mom?” By 10 months, he could read words. Studying at home with his parents, Michael completed four grade levels each year. At 10, he graduated from college with honors. And at 14, he received a Master’s degree. Now in his late teens, he is teaching and working on his Ph.D.



When Alexandra Nechita was 2, her parents gave her some crayons and coloring books. Alexandra was soon working in inks, watercolors, and by the time she was 7, oil paints. At 8, Alexandra had her first art exhibit. Now a young adult, Alexandra is one of the most recognized artists in the world. Her paintings are often compared to those of Picasso and other great artists. They have sold for as much as \$80,000. She has been on TV many times, and several books of her paintings have been published.

A Read the article. Then answer these questions.

1. How do other musicians describe Sarah?
2. Who gave Sarah her first violin?
3. Where did Sarah go to school?
4. What did doctors tell Michael’s parents?
5. What is Michael doing now?
6. What materials has Alexandra worked with?
7. What happened to Alexandra when she was 8?
8. Whose work has Alexandra’s been compared to?

B Pair work Which of the three prodigies do you think is the most amazing? If you were a prodigy, what would you like to be really good at? Why?