

## The accident by Mandeep Locham

<b>Age:</b>	Adults
<b>Level:</b>	Intermediate / Upper intermediate
<b>Time:</b>	45 min+
<b>Aim:</b>	to revise the past simple and past continuous, questions formation and numbers
<b>Key skills:</b>	writing, speaking
<b>Materials:</b>	one worksheet for each student

### Procedure

1. Tell the class that you will dictate a brain teaser to them. Explain that it is about an accident at work and, after they have listened to it, they should try to guess what happened. If necessary, pre-teach *skyscraper*, *harness* and *slip*.

*A window cleaner was cleaning the windows on the 25th floor of a skyscraper, when he slipped and fell. He wasn't wearing a safety harness and nothing slowed his fall, but he wasn't hurt.*

Read the brain teaser twice, ensuring that the majority of students have managed to write it down. Put students in pairs and ask them to check that they have written the same text. Then, choose one confident student to read the brain teaser to the class. Make sure the tenses are correct.

Ask students why they think the worker wasn't injured. Write the correct answer on the board.

**KEY:** *He was cleaning the inside of the windows.*

2. Divide the class into three groups and write the following scenarios on the board:

1. Two workers were in a lift. They called the fire brigade because they were worried about drowning.
2. A truck driver went to hospital after he started to expand quickly.
3. A PE teacher at work picked up the phone and collapsed.

3. Tell students that these are all true stories about accidents that happened to people at work. Explain that, although each accident was life-threatening, each had a happy ending! Make sure all the vocabulary is understood.

Give each group ten minutes to invent an explanation for each story. Nominate one person from each group to explain their group's ideas to the rest of the class.

4. Give out the worksheet, which has an explanation of each incident. Ask three students to read the three texts. Then, ask students individually to write three questions they would like answered under each story. Ask students to feed back some of their questions and write them on the board. Any questions that are incorrectly formed can be corrected by the class. This task will get students thinking more practically about how the accident happened, which will prepare them for the next task.

5. Ask students if they think the accidents could have been prevented in any way and if they think the workers in each case have a right to compensation and, if so, how much! Elicit amounts from different students and write them on the board, asking them to justify their answers.

6. Explain that you want each student to either choose one of the situations in the worksheet or invent their own strange work accident. They should write out an explanation of what happened but from the perspective of the worker trying to claim money from the insurance company. They can add details to the story. They should try to explain that the accident was the fault of the company and say how much money they want and why it is deserved. As the instructions are complicated, give students an example on the board, e.g. *I was washing the windows when I slipped. This is because I was not warned of the danger. I didn't go to work for six months and now I have problems with my back so I require €5,000 in compensation.*

Highlight to students that telling the story will need at least one example of the past continuous to describe what they were doing at a particular point in time when the accident happened in the past simple. Use the example on the board to show how. Students at this level should be familiar with how to form the two tenses. With weaker students, underline examples from the texts on the worksheet before continuing.

7. Monitor the writing stage and then ask some stronger / more creative students to read out their stories.

8. Collect all the stories and worksheets to mark and return to students in the next lesson.

Read the three stories below about accidents in the workplace. Write any questions you have about the accidents in the gaps below.

## WATER IN THE LIFT!

Two construction workers were working in a hotel which was being renovated. They were in the lift and, when they reached the second floor, the door wouldn't open. They decided

to go down to the lowest floor, which was in the basement, to open the door. That day it had rained heavily. When they got to the basement, the lift broke down and started to flood. As

the water was entering quickly they started to panic. They used a mobile phone to call the fire brigade. When they arrived the water was up to their necks and still rising!

### Questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## THE MICHELIN MAN!

A truck driver in New Zealand parked his truck and was testing the tyres for air when he slipped. The sharp air hose pierced the top of his left thigh. The air began to

pump up his entire body! He was blowing up like a balloon when the ambulance arrived to take him to hospital. Luckily he was OK because the air didn't enter his bloodstream.

### Questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## LIGHTNING STRIKES!

A PE teacher had a million-to-one accident as he was sitting at his desk one morning. He was making a phone call when lightning struck

the school. The force of the electricity travelling down the phone line made him fall backwards. He is expected to make a full recovery.

### Questions

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_