

Writing Practice - Correcting Mistakes

Teacher's Worksheet

Mystery video

Arthur and Madeline sat down together and were¹ about to watch TV when Madeline said she **had**² a surprise. She had gotten the security tapes from her dad **who**³ worked as security in their neighborhood. It wasn't common to watch camera footage, however, they didn't have anything to do, so they turned on the TV and started watching the houses, the street and all the people that were **walking**⁴ there.

These tapes **were used**⁵ by police officers when they wanted to look for anything suspicious. Madeline had asked her father and anything she asks, she gets. Her father spoils her and never says no to **anything**⁶.

When the video started, Arthur started sweating and didn't **seem**⁷ to like what he was seeing. Madeline asked him what his problem was, but he just got up and left her alone.

That was so **strange**⁸, **however**⁹ she pretended not to notice and kept watching. Suddenly, she noticed why her boyfriend didn't like the video. He was in the video and kissing another girl! She couldn't believe **it**¹⁰, but she would never put up with that. She was sad but had an idea.

Instead of ringing up Arthur, she **called**¹¹ her best friend Claire, they decided to go on a big trip and Madeline posted a lot of fun photos on social media showing that she was having a great time. That wasn't the perfect way to forget him, but she was **sure**¹² that was the best revenge!

Mistakes:

1. **were** (aux.) - When using plural, we should use the auxiliary "were", not "was".
2. **had** (v.) - We should use the verb "had" when referring to possession.
3. **who** (relative clause) - In this case, the subject is the police officer and so we should use the relative clause "who".
 - It was that man who told me to get a new job.
4. **were walking** (v.) - In a past continuous sentence we should use the auxiliary was/were + v(ing).
5. **were used** (passive v.) - The past passive also uses the same auxiliary but follows it up with the past participle.
6. **anything** (pron.) - When making negative sentences, we can use "anything" but not "nothing".
7. **didn't seem** (aux. + v.) - In the past simple, after an auxiliary, the verb must remain in its infinitive form.

8. **strange** (adj.) - There is no comparative in the sentence so we should use the adjective form.
9. **however** (adv.) - When trying to show contrast we can use both "despite" and "however", they are used in different ways, though:
 - Despite having a lot of money, Johnny wasn't happy.
 - Johnny had a lot of money; however, he had a lot of money.
10. **believe it** (v. + prep.) - Some students forget to include the preposition, but it is important for the meaning of the sentence.
11. **called** (v.) - This story is told in the past, so it is important to take into consideration what tenses to use. In this case, past simple makes more sense than past continuous.
12. **sure** (adj.) - It's important to distinguish the adjective and the adverb. The adjective describes the noun and the adverb describe a verb.
 - This child is genuinely nice.
 - This is a nicely behaved child.