

Writing Practice - Correcting Mistakes

Teacher's Worksheet

The Police

The police had been unable to find the three friends, but my family and I **were**¹ very worried.

Everything started when my daughter Anne and her friends Debbie and Monica decided to go out, perhaps **to the**² cinema or **the**³ mall, nobody knew **because**⁴ they didn't say where they would go.

It had already **been**⁵ two days and **there was**⁶ no news about them, **but**⁷ on the third day I was watching TV when the journalist said that three girls had been rescued from a car which had crashed near the Blue beach and they had been taken to the Central Hospital. **At**⁸ the same time my heart almost jumped out of my body and I ran over there.

Monica, my daughter's friend, **had been**⁹ driving **calmly**¹⁰ on the road when suddenly she lost control of the car, they fell off the mountain and the car only stopped when it hit a rock near the beach. They **all**¹¹ lost consciousness.

Fortunately, some surfers saw the car and they called the ambulance. I was very relieved **to**¹² see my daughter and her friends saved.

Mistakes:

1. **were** (v.) - Past tense of the verb "to be". Used before adjectives as an auxiliary. E.g. " I was happy to see her."
2. **to the** (deter.) - When we go somewhere, we use "to the". E.g. I am going to the store".
3. **the** (deter.) - We need to use the determiner "the" before a noun, in this case, "the mall".
4. **because** (conj.) - Some students confuse "for" and "because". Because is used when giving a reason. In this case, the reason nobody knew was **because** they didn't say where they were going.
5. **had already been** (v.) - When using past perfect we need to use the past participle of the verb. (**to be:** is - was/were - been)
6. **there was** (v.) - A lot of students use "have/had" or "existed" as a way of showing the existence of something. In English, the correct way of doing it is using "there is/there was/there had been"
7. **but** (conj.) - "But" is used to show contrast between two ideas.
8. **At the same time** (phr.) - Meaning simultaneously.
9. **had been driving** (past perfect) - When talking about an action which occurred before another action, we need to use the past perfect.
10. **Calmly** (adv.) - After a verb, we cannot use an adjective, we must use an adverb:

- She was a **nice** girl. (adjective)
- She behaved **nicely**. (adverb)
- 11. **All** (adv) - When referring to three options we must use "all" to show that everyone is being referred to.
- 12. **relieved to see** (v.) - When we have two verbs together, the second verb must be either in the infinitive or gerund. This depends on the first verb:
 - I **enjoy watching** movies. (gerund)
 - I **like to go** to the park with you. (infinitive)
 - Me and my friends **hate seeing** people fighting. (gerund)
 - **Remember to buy** me a sandwich before you get home! (infinitive)