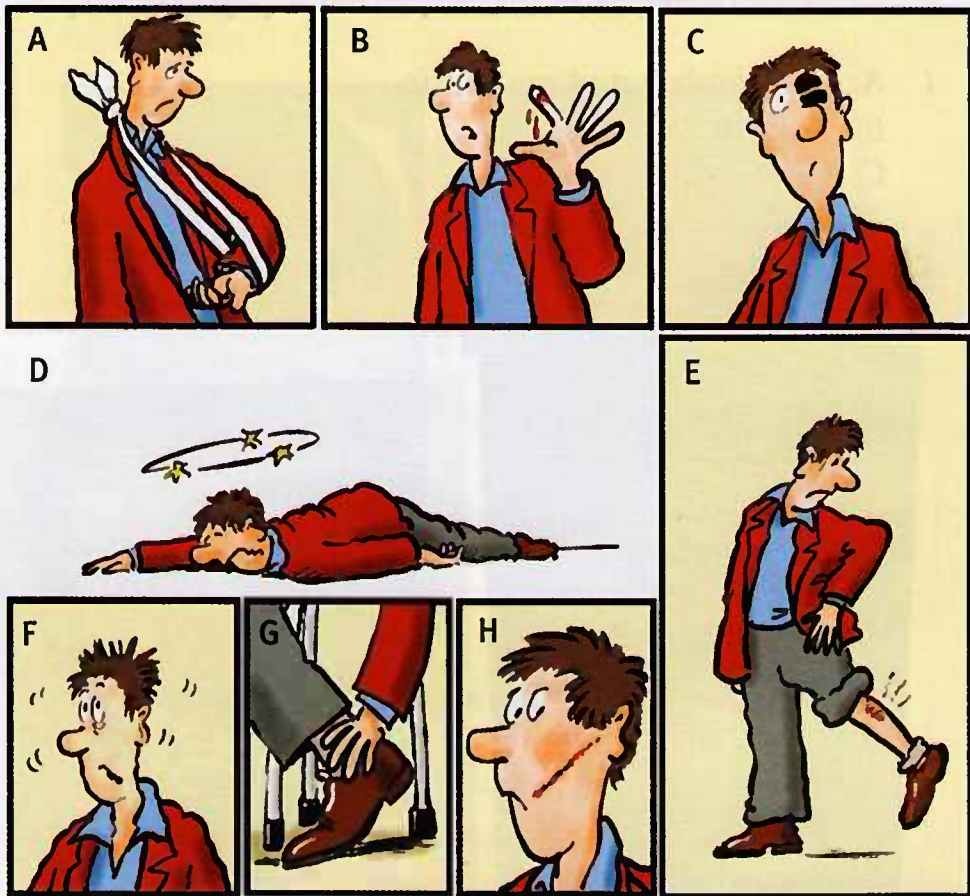


4C | Twists of fate

VOCABULARY: injuries

1 Match the injuries 1–8 to the pictures A–H.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 He's bleeding. | 5 He's sprained his wrist. |
| 2 He's got a big bruise. | 6 He's suffering from shock. |
| 3 He's got a black eye. | 7 He's twisted his ankle. |
| 4 He's got a few scratches. | 8 He's unconscious. |



2 Work in pairs. Put the injuries in exercise 1 in order of seriousness. (1 = most serious → 8 = least serious).

3 Work in pairs, A and B.

A: Choose an injury from exercise 1 and explain how it happened.

He was running for the bus when he fell over.

B: Listen to your partner's explanation and decide which injury he/she is talking about.

Then exchange roles.

READING

1 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- Do you know anyone who is particularly unlucky?
- When was the last time that you were unlucky?

2 Work in pairs. Look at the photo and the title of the article. What do you think has happened to make this person 'the world's luckiest man'?

3 Read the article to find out if any of your ideas were correct.



The World's Luckiest Man

Life is going well for music teacher Frane Selak, 74, from the central Croatian town of Petrinja. Selak recently won about \$1 million with the first lottery ticket he had bought for 40 years. With the money, he bought a new house, car and speedboat, and married his girlfriend.

Selak is lucky to be alive. A few years ago, he was turning a corner in his car in the mountains, when he saw a truck coming straight towards him. His car swerved off the road through the forest for 100 metres, ploughed into a tree and exploded. Fortunately, Selak had jumped out.

4 Read the article again and put these events in the correct order.

- He bought a new house.
- He had a car accident in the mountains.
- He was burnt at a petrol station.
- He was hit by a bus.
- He was in a plane crash.
- He won the lottery.
- His bus fell into a river.
- His train fell into a river.

5 Find these words in the article and match them to the definitions 1–6.

ploughed into (line 11)	exploded (line 11)
rails (line 15)	corpses (line 17)
haystack (line 23)	sprayed (line 33)

- crashed into
- suddenly caught fire with a loud noise
- threw liquid over something
- dead bodies
- the lines that a train runs on
- large pile of dried grass

But this was not the first of his lucky escapes. Back in 1962, Selak was travelling from Sarajevo to Dubrovnik when the train he was in came off the rails and fell into an icy river. Rescue workers found seventeen corpses in the river, but Selak had swum to safety, suffering only shock, bruises and a broken arm.

Then, a year later, he was involved in a plane crash in which nineteen people died. But before the crash, Selak had jumped out of the plane and landed in a haystack. Again, the only injuries were cuts and scratches and the usual shock.

His next disaster was a bus accident when four people died. The bus left the road and Selak again found himself in a river. But he was becoming something of an expert at this sort of situation and swam to safety. By this time, said Selak, his friends had stopped visiting him.

Three years later, he lost most of his hair and suffered burns when his car caught fire at a petrol station. The petrol pump was old and had sprayed petrol all over the hot engine of his car. Then, in 1995, he was in hospital again. Another bus had knocked him over.

Selak is philosophical about his fortune. 'I am going to enjoy my life now – I feel like I have been reborn. I know God was watching over me all those years,' he said.

GRAMMAR: past perfect simple

Use the past perfect

- to talk about completed actions in the past that happened *before* other actions in the past.
He won the lottery with the first ticket he had bought for forty years.
(= He bought a ticket and then he won the lottery.)

Make the past perfect

- with *had/hadn't* + past participle.

Look at the difference between the past perfect and the past simple.

He was in hospital again. He had had another accident.

(= He had an accident and so he went to hospital.)

He was in hospital again where he had another accident.

(= He had the accident when he was in hospital.)

➤ SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 44

- Complete the text. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the past perfect.

In the late 1940s, the members of a church choir in Nebraska (1) _____ (*meet*) every Wednesday at 7.20 to practise their singing. But one day in 1950, it was already 7.25 and the choir (2) _____ (*not / arrive*). They (3) _____ (*be*) fortunate because at that moment a gas explosion (4) _____ (*destroy*) the church. The fifteen members of the choir (5) _____ (*have*) different reasons for being late. Two people (6) _____ (*break*) down in their car. Others (7) _____ (*decide*) to finish some work and another person (8) _____ (*fall*) asleep.

- Read the two extracts A and B from newspaper stories. Use your imagination to answer the questions.

A


When the ambulance arrived at Mrs Porter's flat, she was lying by the front door crying and in a terrible state. A few minutes later, the paramedics found her two-year-old grandson, Reuben, playing behind a tree in the garden. They couldn't believe he was still alive.

- Why had the ambulance gone to the flat?
- Why was Mrs Porter crying?
- Why couldn't the paramedics believe that the boy was still alive?


B

Hundreds of officers from the Manchester police force began to look for the two men, Martin and Eric Visser. They were surprised to receive a telephone call from the governor of the local prison, saying that he had the two young men.


- What had the two young men done?
- How had they got into the prison?
- Why had they gone there?

-  1.34–1.35 Listen to the recordings to find out if your guesses were correct.

LISTENING

1  1.36 Listen and match the three bad luck stories 1–3 to the headlines a–c.

- a Mum left out in the cold
- b Mum pays for expensive joke
- c Man loses job after mountain top adventure

2  1.36 Listen again and answer these questions.



Story 1

- 1 How long was the man stuck on the mountain?
- 2 How did he survive?
- 3 Who found him?



Story 2

- 1 How long did the woman have to wait on the balcony?
- 2 Why did the woman go out on to the balcony?
- 3 How old was the little boy?



Story 3

- 1 How much will the mother have to pay?
- 2 How did the egg get on the roof of the car?
- 3 How long did the egg stay there before it was discovered?

3 Have you heard any bad luck stories in the news recently? If so, what were they?

VOCABULARY: time linkers

Use *while*, *as* and *when* to show that two actions happen at the same time.


*A black cat crossed my path **while** / **as** / **when** I was walking down the street.*

Use *the moment*, *as soon as* and *when* to show that one action happens immediately after another action.

*I crossed the road **the moment** / **as soon as** / **when** I saw the black cat.*

Use *by the time* to show that one action has happened before another.

*I'd had three different accidents **by the time** I got home.*

 SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 44

1 Look at these extracts from the bad luck stories. One of the three time linkers in italics in each sentence is wrong. Underline it. Then explain why it is wrong.

- 1 Thomas Milnik found out that he'd lost his job *while* / *as* / *after* doctors at the hospital were deciding whether to cut off six of his toes.
- 2 The 41-year-old hiker was climbing in the Alps *as soon as* / *when* / *as* it suddenly started to snow.
- 3 He was eventually rescued five days later *the moment* / *after* / *when* workers at a research station heard his cries for help.
- 4 A woman had to be rescued by police yesterday *when* / *after* / *as soon as* her son locked her out on the balcony.
- 5 The mother could only watch *as* / *while* / *after* her son walked to the sofa, climbed up on to it and then fell asleep.
- 6 The egg continued to cook until the owner of the car discovered it two hours later. *By the time* / *When* / *The moment* he found it, the fried egg had burned into the paint.

2 Complete the article using appropriate time linkers from the language box.

Police arrested two burglars last night (1) _____ they jumped into a police car thinking it was their getaway car.

Police say that the two men had planned to break into two houses on the same street that night. They had arranged to meet a third man on the corner of the street (2) _____ they had finished in the second house.

The policeman who was driving the car, said: 'They only realized it was the wrong car (3) _____ they were actually sitting in the back of it. But (4) _____ they realized it was a police car, it was too late. I'd locked the doors, and they couldn't get out.'

SPEAKING

1 Work as a class. Look at the pictures. They show the start of another bad luck story. Take turns to continue the story one sentence at a time.



A: Jane was getting ready for an important date.

B: She was putting on her make-up when suddenly a black cat jumped onto the table.

C: Unfortunately, when the cat jumped on to the table, it smashed the mirror.

D: As Jane bent down to pick up the mirror, she banged her head on the table.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Work in pairs. Read the information about superstitions and discuss these questions.



Superstitions in Britain

In Britain, there are many superstitions connected with cats. Black cats are good-luck animals, and you should welcome them into your house. A black cat sitting outside your front door means that you will be rich, and you will be very lucky if you see a cat sneeze. However, if a black cat crosses your path, you will have bad luck. The bad luck will go away if you walk backwards or spit on the ground in front of you.

- Which birds or animals in your country are considered to be lucky or unlucky?
- What other superstitions are common?
- How superstitious are you?