

Fred and Rita Missing the Bus - Reading Worksheet

The classroom door opened. Ms Taylor stopped talking. She folded her arms.

“Sorry I’m late Miss,” said Fred. “You see -”

“Sit down,” ordered Miss Taylor. “I’ll speak to you after class.”

Fred hoped Ms Taylor would forget. At the end of the class, he hurried to the door.

Ms Taylor never forgot anything. She called him back. “Why were you late?”

“It was Hector, our dog, Miss. He ran out when my brother opened the front door. You see, he was late for class - ”

“Your dog goes to school?”

“No, not Hector. My brother, George. He goes to university – for about three hours a week, anyway. The rest of the time he plays FIFA. What happened was -”

Harriet raised her finger to her lips. “Let me guess,” she said.

“You chased after Hector?”

“And this made you miss your bus?”

“I ran for it but –”

“So, you blame your dog?”

This was not going well. “The driver didn’t stop,” said Fred.

“Now you’re blaming your brother, your dog and the bus driver?”

Fred swallowed hard. “Just my brother, really,” he said.

“But your brother is not in this class, Fred. He’s not taking your history exam tomorrow.”

“I won’t be late tomorrow,” said Fred.

Ms Taylor looked at Fred. He looked at his shoes. “Have you been revising for the exam? You don’t want to fail it. do you?”

“No, Miss. I mean, yes I have done the work.”

Only one part of his answer was true.



Quick Check: True or False?

1. Fred was late for class.
2. Hector goes to university.
3. Fred blames his brother for his lateness.
4. George is in Fred’s class.
5. Fred wants to fail his exam.

“Ms Taylor is mad at me,” Fred told his friend, Rita, after the class.

“You were late again.”

“What’s the big deal? I missed a few boring minutes. I didn’t burn down the college!”

“What excuse did you give?”

Fred and Rita Missing the Bus - Reading Worksheet

“I told her about my dog escaping – “

“Fred, you don’t have a dog!”

Fred shrugged. “She doesn’t know that, does she? Yet she still didn’t believe me!”

“I wonder why! And have you revised for the History exam tomorrow?”

“Sort of,” said Fred. “It’s about the Romans, right?”

“No, Fred, that was last year.”

© 2022 Text: by Kieran McGovern Illustrations by Dominic Davies

Quick Check: True or False?

1. Fred thinks Harriet is angry with him.
2. Fred says he wants to burn down the college.
3. The story about the dog was untrue.
4. A “big deal” is something important.
5. Fred burned down the college.
6. The exam is about the Romans.



Comprehension

1. What is the name of Fred’s teacher?
2. Who is Hector?
3. Who is George?
4. When is the exam?
5. *Only one part of his answer was true.* Which part?
6. *I told her about my dog escaping.* Why is Rita surprised by this?
7. What does Ms Taylor not know about Hector?
8. Do you think Fred has revised for his exam? Why/why not?

In what order do these things happen? (according to Fred!)

- a. The bus leaves without Fred.
- b. Fred arrives late for class.
- c. Fred finds Hector and brings him back to the house
- d. Ms Taylor says, “Sit down!”
- e. Fred wakes up the morning of his class 1
- f. Hector runs out of the house.



[More Fred & Rita](#)