

A Surprising Saturday

Read the story. Then do the tasks.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Last Saturday was supposed to be **relaxing**, but it was **exhausting**. My sister asked me to help her move house. At first I was **annoyed** because I was **tired** after a long working week. Moving furniture was **boring**. The stairs were **frightening**: her flat is on the fifth floor and there is no lift! That evening something **surprising** happened. Her neighbours invited us to dinner. They were **interesting**. He has worked in Japan and she has travelled across South America. I was **amazed** by their stories and **excited** about my trip. It was a **confusing** day, but it wasn't **disappointing**.

1 Glossary

relaxing — atslābinošs

exhausting — nogurdinošs

annoyed — aizkaitināts

frightening — biedējošs

amazed — pārsteigts, apbrīnas pilns

lift — lifts

2 Choose -ed or -ing. Circle the correct word.

1. Moving furniture was (bored / boring).
2. After a long week I was (tired / tiring).
3. The stairs were (frightened / frightening).
4. The neighbours were (interested / interesting).
5. I was (amazed / amazing) by their stories.
6. It wasn't a (disappointed / disappointing) day.

Speaking (all levels): Work in groups of three (A2, B1, B2). Each person retells the story in two or three sentences. Then talk about a day that started badly but ended well. Use at least four -ed/-ing adjectives and ask one follow-up question.

A Surprising Saturday

Read the story. Then do the tasks.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Last Saturday was supposed to be relaxing, but it turned out to be exhausting. I had planned a quiet day at home, but my sister called and asked me to help her move house. At first I was annoyed, because I was really tired after a long week at work. Moving furniture was boring and the stairs were frightening – her new flat is on the fifth floor and there is no lift! However, something surprising happened in the evening. Her new neighbours invited us to dinner. They were very interesting people: he has worked in Japan and she has travelled across South America. I was amazed by their stories. By the end of the evening, I wasn't tired any more – I was excited about planning my own trip. It was a confusing day, but in the end it wasn't disappointing at all.

1 Write the correct form (-ed or -ing).

1. I was _____ (annoy) when my sister called.
2. After work I was really _____ (tire).
3. Carrying the sofa up five floors was _____ (exhaust).
4. The neighbours' stories were _____ (amaze).
5. I was _____ (surprise) by the dinner invitation.
6. The instructions for the new flat were _____ (confuse).

2 Answer the questions.

a) Why was the narrator annoyed at first?

b) How did the narrator feel at the end of the evening, and why?

Speaking (all levels): Work in groups of three (A2, B1, B2). Each person retells the story in two or three sentences. Then talk about a day that started badly but ended well. Use at least four -ed/-ing adjectives and ask one follow-up question.

A Surprising Saturday

Read the story. Then do the tasks.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Last Saturday was supposed to be relaxing, but it turned out to be completely exhausting. I had planned a lazy day at home when my sister phoned and asked me to help her move house. At first I was annoyed, partly because I was so tired after a long working week. Carrying boxes and furniture was boring, repetitive work, and the stairs were genuinely frightening: her new flat is on the fifth floor and the building has no lift. By mid-afternoon the whole job felt overwhelming, and I was overwhelmed by the number of boxes still waiting downstairs. However, the evening brought a surprising change. Her new neighbours invited us to dinner, and they turned out to be very interesting people. He has worked in Japan for several years and she has travelled across South America on her own. Their stories were fascinating, and I was fascinated by how easily they had adapted to different cultures. I was amazed by their courage, and by the end of the evening I was excited about planning a trip of my own. It had been a confusing day, but it certainly wasn't disappointing.

1 Rewrite: change the focus from the feeling to the cause.

Example: I was annoyed. → *It was annoying.*

1. I was annoyed when my sister phoned.

2. I was overwhelmed by the number of boxes.

3. I was fascinated by their stories.

4. I was excited about planning a trip.

2 Discussion

Have you ever met someone whose experiences were so fascinating that they changed your plans? What happened?

Speaking (all levels): Work in groups of three (A2, B1, B2). Each person retells the story in two or three sentences. Then talk about a day that started badly but ended well. Use at least four -ed/-ing adjectives and ask one follow-up question.

Answer key

Mixed-level lesson: one story, three versions (A2 · B1 · B2)

A2 · Choose -ed or -ing

1	2	3	4	5	6
boring	tired	frightening	interesting	amazed	disappointing

B1 · Write the correct form

1	2	3	4	5	6
annoyed	tired	exhausting	amazing	surprised	confusing

B1 · Questions

- a) Because her sister asked for help after a long, tiring working week, and she had planned a quiet day at home.
 b) Excited, because the neighbours' stories were amazing and made her want to plan her own trip.

B2 · Rewrite

- My sister's phone call was annoying.
- The number of boxes was overwhelming.
- Their stories were fascinating.
- Planning a trip was exciting.

Discussion and speaking

No single correct answer. Check that learners use the target adjectives correctly: **-ed** for how a person feels, **-ing** for the person, thing or situation that causes the feeling. Listen for typical Latvian-speaker mistakes such as "*I am boring*" (meaning "I am bored").

Target adjectives in all three texts

relaxing · exhausting · annoyed · tired · boring · frightening · surprising · interesting · amazed · excited · confusing · disappointing | B2 also: overwhelming · overwhelmed · fascinating · fascinated