

# Grammar challenge for pros

Look at the underlined phrases. Why did the writer use the past perfect tense here?

had finished... had found...had met...had stayed...

January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Dear Diary,

Today I got into a really tricky situation again. A few minutes ago, I was hanging upside down in a mine, copying and memorizing a text. This was one of the scariest things I have ever done. It was totally dark, and I was scared of falling down even deeper into the hole below me. 😬

I was hanging in there, head down because I was copying a text that was carved into the stone wall. I knew it was an important message for the next clue in South Africa.

When I had finished copying the text, Nellie pulled me up and Amy and Nelly wanted to know what I had found out down there and why I had stayed down there so long. But there was a problem: we were not alone. Court, the strange boy that we had met earlier was also there. I did not trust him at all, he might be following us in order to get to the clue first. Therefore, I said that there was nothing special down there, just bats and rats.

When we were finally alone, I told Amy and Nelly what I had found. I am soooo excited – I am sure this will lead us to the next clue. I hope Court won't follow us tomorrow. We have to get away from here as fast as possible...

Wish me luck!

**Tip:** In what order did these things happen? Draw the events on the timeline:

**Example:**

When I had finished copying the text, Nellie pulled me up.



The strange boy that we had met earlier was also there.



Nelly wanted to know what I had found out.



Now find 5 examples of the past perfect tense in your book.

Write the sentences on the back of this sheet and draw similar timelines.