

Meeting at the station (Part 2)

As I ran down the road I hardly **(1)** *noticed / was noticing* that it **(2)** *snowed / was snowing*, and when I got to the station I **(3)** *kept / was keeping* on running until I reached the platform where I hoped to catch the train Sophie was leaving on. But it **(4)** *already went / had already gone*.

Furious with myself for missing her, I was about to leave the station when suddenly there was an announcement saying that so much snow **(5)** *fell / had fallen* this side of Upton Junction, the next station, that the line was blocked in both directions. Which meant that Sophie's train **(6)** *didn't go / wasn't going* anywhere, at least for a while.

I remembered there **(7)** *used to be / was being* a bus to Upton, but when I asked about it at the information office they told me it no longer went there. It **(8)** *was seeming / seemed* there was no way I could catch up with Sophie, and I left the station. But right outside I spotted a row of bicycles for hire.

Fortunately I **(9)** *'d been / 'd been going* to a cashpoint earlier and I had plenty of money on me, so I chose a bike and a few seconds later I **(10)** *would pedal / was pedalling* as fast as I could in the direction of Upton.

It was mostly uphill and the weather was very cold. By the time I **(11)** *was riding / 'd been riding* for 15 minutes my hands were frozen solid. There was both ice and snow on the road, and on one particularly sharp bend I completely lost control of the bike and **(12)** *crashed / was crashing* into a wall.

The front wheel was bent and I **(13)** *realised / was realising* immediately that I would have to continue on foot, but I could also see I **(14)** *cut / 'd cut* my leg quite badly in the accident. Leaving the damaged bike behind, I slowly and painfully **(15)** *walked / used to walk* the last four miles, eventually arriving in the small town of Upton at around ten o'clock. Just then I heard the train approaching.

I ran as fast as I **(16)** *could / 'd been able to* down the brightly lit but empty street that **(17)** *was leading / led* to the station, but seconds before I reached the platform the whistle blew and the train pulled out. With a feeling of sadness, I **(18)** *'d been watching / watched* its lights disappear into the darkness, and then stepped into the waiting room to get warm.

As I **(19)** *had done / did* so, a friendly voice to my left said 'Hi'. It was Sophie. 'I saw you from the train,' she said, 'so I **(20)** *was deciding / decided* to get off and wait for you. There's another train due here at eleven. Shall we get that one together?'