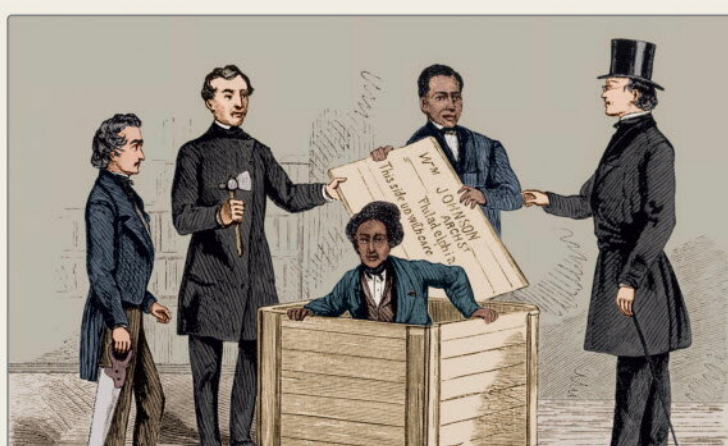


## 2.2 An extraordinary escape

GOALS ■ Use past perfect forms ■ Talk about feelings

### Grammar & Speaking past perfect forms

- 1a With a partner, look at the picture and the title of the article. Describe what you can see. Who do you think the man is and why is he in a box? What about the other people?
- b Read the article and find out if you were right.



### The man who mailed himself to freedom

Early in the morning of March 24, 1849, a box arrived at 107 North Fifth Street in Philadelphia. These were the offices of the Pennsylvania Anti-Slavery Society. Several members of this organization had gathered there that Saturday morning, anxiously waiting for the arrival of this package that had come from Richmond, Virginia.

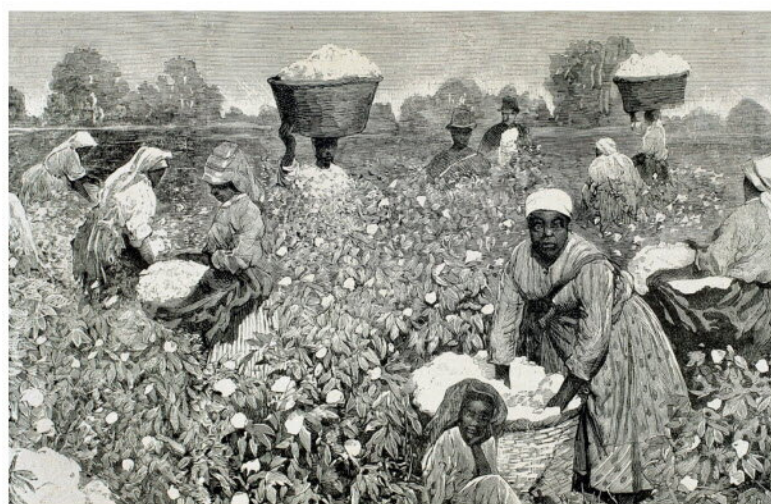
After receiving the box, the men locked the door so that there would be no interruptions and one of them did something strange. Leaning over the box, he tapped on it and quietly asked, 'Is all right inside?' Even more strangely, a voice replied from inside the box, 'All right.'

Within a few minutes, the men opened the box. Inside was an African-American man in his early thirties by the name of Henry Brown. And he had just succeeded in escaping from slavery by shipping himself as freight to this city in the free state of Pennsylvania. In honour of this very creative but extremely dangerous feat, he became known forever after as Henry 'Box' Brown.

He had an extraordinary story to tell.

- **freight** goods that are transported by ships, planes, trains or lorries/trucks
- **feat** an action that needs skill, strength or courage

- 2 Read the article again and discuss the questions with a partner.
- 1 Why had the men gathered at the society?
  - 2 Why had Henry Brown chosen Pennsylvania as his destination?
  - 3 What do you think his life had been like in Virginia? What do you think had led him to escape?
  - 4 What dangers do you think he had faced during the journey?



- 3 2.2 ))) You are going to hear a talk about what happened before Henry Box Brown arrived. Listen and answer the questions.
- 1 Where had Brown been working in Virginia?
  - 2 What terrible event had led to his decision to escape?
  - 3 Who had helped him escape?
  - 4 Which forms of transport did he use?
  - 5 How long had he been travelling in the box when it was opened?
- 4 2.2 ))) Listen again. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false sentences.
- 1 Brown wanted to escape because his owner had been beating him.
  - 2 Nancy's owner sold her even though he had promised not to.
  - 3 Before they were separated, the couple had been living in Brown's owner's house.
  - 4 Brown almost died in the box because he hadn't had anything to drink during the journey.
  - 5 Brown didn't become famous until after he had died.
- 5 Look at the sentences in exercise 4. Underline examples of the past perfect simple and the past perfect continuous.

- 6 Look again at the sentences in exercise 4. Then complete the rules in the Grammar focus box with *simple* or *continuous*.

### GRAMMAR FOCUS past perfect forms

- We use the past perfect when we are already talking about the past and want to talk about an earlier past time.  
We use the past perfect <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about actions that continued for a period of time up to the moment we are talking about.  
*His body hurt because he had been sitting in the same position for hours.*
- We use the past perfect <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to talk about actions that were completed before the moment we are talking about.  
*He'd asked for her master's permission before they got married.*
- When we are talking about states, rather than actions, for example with verbs like *be, like, have, know*, we use the past perfect <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.  
*They hadn't been together long before his wife was sold to another owner.*

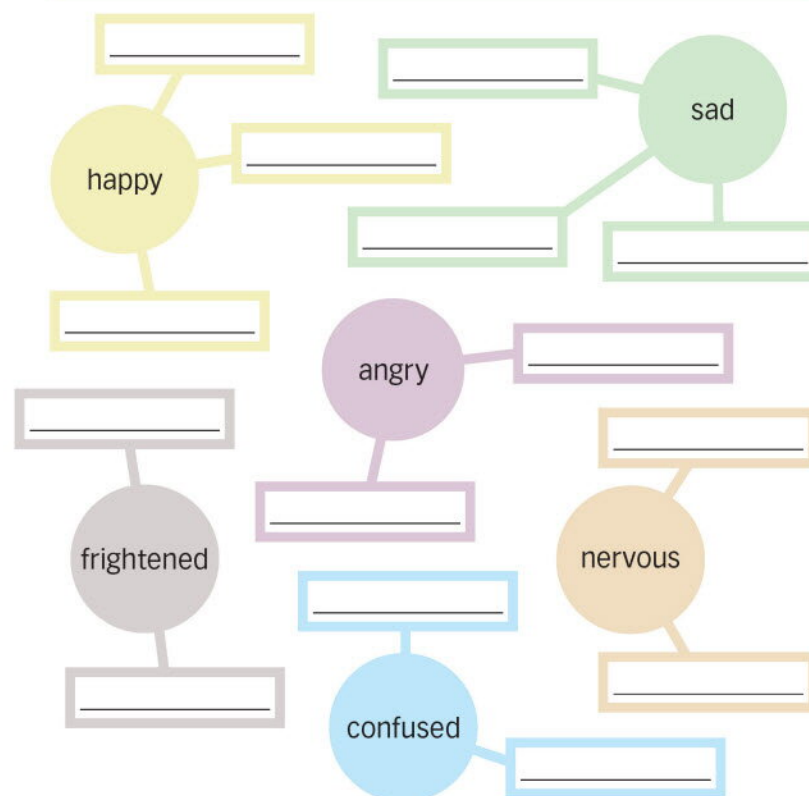
→ Grammar Reference page 139

- 7 Complete the sentences with the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous form of the verbs in brackets.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ (know) each other for a year before they got married.
  - He was exhausted because he \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) all night.
  - She was in a panic because she \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) her passport.
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ (have) the car for just a month when someone crashed into it.
  - The alarm didn't go off because I \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) to set it.
  - My eyes were hurting because I \_\_\_\_\_ (stare) at the computer screen all day.
  - I was sorry that the trip was cancelled. I \_\_\_\_\_ (look) forward it.
- 8 Continue each sentence with a suitable verb in the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous to explain what had happened/been happening.
- She felt dizzy because ...
  - He was out of breath because ...
  - He had oil on his hands because ...
  - Her boots were muddy because ...

## Vocabulary & Speaking adjectives of feeling

- 9a Complete the mind map with the adjectives in the box.

anxious bitter delighted disorientated down  
furious hurt miserable petrified puzzled relieved  
satisfied tense terrified



### PRONUNCIATION word stress – adjectives (1)

- b 2.3 ))) Mark the stress on the adjectives on the mind map. Listen and check. Then listen again and repeat.
- 10 Work with a partner. Think again about the story of Henry Box Brown. Which adjectives from exercise 9a could you use to describe ...?
- how Brown felt when he heard the news that Nancy was going to be sold
  - how he felt just before his journey in the box
  - how he felt while he was in the box
  - how the luggage handlers would have felt if they had heard a noise coming from inside the box
  - how he felt just after he got out of the box
  - how he felt the next day
- 11a **TASK** Think of a person who has committed an extraordinary act of bravery. It could be a person you know or a famous historical figure. Make notes about the following.
- Who is it?
  - What did he/she do?
  - What had happened before the event?
- b Work in groups. Tell the story of this person's extraordinary feat. Which story was the most unusual?