

The Night the Lights Went Out

Level: B1

Read what happened when the lights went out at Omar's library. Then answer the questions.

Reading text

Last Friday, Omar was closing the community library when the lights suddenly went out. At first, he thought someone had turned them off by mistake. Then he heard a loud noise outside and saw that the whole street was dark. It had rained heavily for hours, and the wind was shaking the windows. Omar checked his phone, but its battery was nearly empty. He had promised to meet his sister at the bus stop in twenty minutes.

While he was looking for a torch, he heard a quiet voice from the reading room. A girl called Eva had stayed behind to finish her homework. She was frightened, so Omar said, "Let's leave together." Before they opened the front door, he found a small torch in his desk. They walked carefully down the stairs and waited under the roof outside. A neighbour explained that a tree had fallen across the road and damaged a power line.

Omar tried to call Eva's mother, but the phone stopped working. Eva remembered that her mother was waiting at the bakery on the next street. They decided to walk there, but the pavement was wet and difficult to see. As they were crossing the square, someone called Eva's name. Eva's mother looked for her daughter after the lights went out. She hugged Eva and thanked Omar for staying with her.

When Omar finally reached the bus stop, his sister was still there. She had heard about the fallen tree and had waited inside a nearby shop. They took the last bus home together as the rain began to slow down. The power returned later that night, but the library stayed closed until morning. The next day, Eva left a note on Omar's desk to say thank you. Omar kept it in a book and smiled whenever he remembered that dark evening.

Glossary

community	people who live or work in the same area
battery	the part of a phone that stores power
torch	a small light you carry in your hand
neighbour	a person who lives near you
power line	a cable that carries electricity
pavement	the path beside a road for people walking
square	an open public area in a town
power	electricity for lights and machines

Exercise 1: Choose the correct answer

Read the story and choose the best answer.

- Why was the whole street dark?
 - A tree had damaged a power line
 - Omar had turned off the lights
 - The library was closing

2. Who was still inside the library?
a) Omar's sister b) Eva c) Eva's mother
3. Where was Eva's mother waiting?
a) At the bus stop b) At the library c) At the bakery
4. What did Eva leave for Omar the next day?
a) A note b) A new torch c) A book

Exercise 2: Right or wrong?

Decide whether each statement agrees with the story.

5. Omar's phone had plenty of battery. True / False
6. The neighbour said a tree had fallen across the road. True / False
7. Omar's sister waited outside in the rain. True / False

Exercise 3: Complete the sentence

Use a word from the story.

8. It had ___ heavily for hours before the lights went out. (past participle of rain)
9. Eva was frightened, so Omar found a ___ to help them see. (a small hand-held light)
10. In the past simple, Eva's mother ___ for her daughter after the power cut. (a past simple word meaning tried to find)

Exercise 4: Listen and choose

Listening: online only.

Exercise 5: Listen and write

Listening: online only.

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the correct answer

1. a) A tree had damaged a power line
2. b) Eva
3. c) At the bakery
4. a) A note

Exercise 2: Right or wrong?

5. False
6. True
7. False

Exercise 3: Complete the sentence

8. rained
9. torch
10. looked / searched

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