



Fred & Rita: Posted Phone

Before Reading Activity

Fred is late. He hurries to college, talking to Rita on the mobile phone in his right hand. In his left hand is a letter for posting.

Fred: *Into his phone* I'm just posting that summer-job application. The deadline is tomorrow.

Fred approaches a post-box. At that moment his bus comes around the corner.

Fred: There's my bus! I'll see you at break.

Fred reaches with his right hand for the post-box. He then runs to catch the bus.



After class Fred meets Rita outside their classroom.

Rita: Fred, did you get my text?

Fred: I haven't had time to check my phone. *He reaches into his pocket for his phone - and pulls out the letter.* Oh no!

Rita: What's the matter?

Fred: *Shaking his head* I think I posted the phone instead of the letter!

Rita: You put the phone in the postbox? Oh, Fred! How did you do that?

Fred: I had it my hand. *His head drops* Now it will be in China or somewhere!

Rita: *Trying not to laugh* No it won't! It's probably still in the postbox. If you hurry, you might catch the postman before the next collection. Come on, I'll go with you.

Fred & Rita go to the postbox. They look at the collection times.

Fred: We're two minutes late! We've missed the collection! Now I'll never get it back!

Rita: The postman may not be here yet. *She gets out her mobile.* I'll call your phone.

Fred: But I've told you I posted it -

Fred breaks off realising what he is saying.

Rita: Let's see if you are in.

From inside the box the sound of a police siren - Fred's ringtone. The phone rings - and rings. It is still ringing when the postman comes round the corner.

Postman: What's going on? *Rita points at Fred..*

Rita: *Pointing at Fred* He's accidentally posted his phone.

Fred: It's a long story.

The postman unlocks the postbox. He retrieves the phone and hands it to Fred.

Postman: *Laughing* You've just missed a call, officer.



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Activities

Understanding: *Sequence*

1. What happened to Fred's mobile phone? Put these events in the correct order

- a) Fred meets Rita
- b) Rita notices the letter in Fred's hand
- c) The phone rings in the box
- d) The postman arrives to collect the mail
- e) Fred is hurrying to college while talking on his phone
- f) Fred returns to the post box with Rita
- g) Fred catches the bus
- h) The postman hands the phone to Fred
- i) Fred posts the phone.

2. Why does the postman call Fred, 'Officer'?

Vocabulary: New Words

Frantic - with strong emotion e.g fear, anxiety

Catch - to reach in time/speak to someone before they leave

Break-off - stop doing something suddenly (e.g speaking)

Replace the underlined words without changing the meaning

1. Fred approaches a post-box.
2. The deadline is tomorrow.
3. The postman unlocks the postbox.
4. ... you might catch the postman ...
5. Fred breaks-off realising what he is saying.

[Matching Exercise](#) * [Fred & Rita Crossword](#)

Speaking & listening

1. Work in groups of three. Role-play this scene
2. Work in pairs. One of you is Fred phoning the post office. Explain what has happened to your phone.

Writing

Choose one of the below. Write about what happened to Fred's phone.

1. You are the postman. Write a report on what happened to Fred's phone.
2. You are Rita. Write a text, email or postcard to a friend.
3. You are Fred. Write a text, email or postcard to a friend.

[Teaching Notes - Answers](#)

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