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I'm Late! sample  
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## **I'M LATE!**

Level 3 - A2/B1 Intermediate (1) Graded Reader from I Talk You Talk Press

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I'm Late!

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### **Introduction**

There are five short stories for learners of English in this book.

Story 1: Oh no! What can we wear?

Story 2: Taking the train

Story 3: Bevan

Story 4: A missed flight connection

Story 5: Irwin's graduation

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### 1. Oh no! What can we wear?

It was the last team practice before the big gymnastics competition in Burlingville. It was school vacation, but the high school gymnastics team had been training every day.

Usually, their teacher said, "You must do better! Try harder."

But today, she smiled a little. "Go home and rest. Remember, you must be here at the school at six o'clock tomorrow morning. Bring some snacks and water. The minibus will leave at six fifteen. Maybe this year we will be lucky, and win!"

Nerissa and Phoebe walked out of the gym together. There were five team members, and they were the oldest. This was the third time they had been to the competition. It was their last year at high school, so it was their last chance to win.

"Burlingville tomorrow!" said Phoebe. "It will take us a long time to get there. Last year we got second place. I hope we are luckier this year."

Nerissa laughed. "We have our wonderful new uniforms. I am sure we can win!"

Springtown High School was in the countryside. Most of the students' parents were farmers. It was not a rich school, but all the teachers and students worked very hard.

The gymnastics team made cookies and sold them at the market to get money to buy new uniforms. They were very pretty. They were blue and silver. Everyone in the team liked them very much.

Early next morning, the team and their teacher got on the minibus to start their long trip to the city.

"We will reach the railway station in Travers at about two o'clock," said their teacher. "Then we will take a train to Burlingville. We will be there by six o'clock. We must register for the competition by seven o'clock, so we will have plenty of time."

The bus driver took the bus through the country roads until they reached the motorway. Then suddenly, he parked the bus at the side of the road.

"I'm sorry!" he said. "There is something wrong with the engine. I must look."

Everyone sat in their seats and waited. They ate their snacks and drank their water. After about 20 minutes, the driver came back inside. "I'm sorry. I can't fix the engine. I will call my company and ask them to send another bus for you."

"Will it take a long time?" asked the teacher. "We must catch a train to Burlingville."

The bus driver looked worried. "I don't know. I hope there is a free minibus. I will ask them to hurry."

The teacher was very worried. She looked at her phone many times. Then she called the manager of the competition. When she finished talking, she looked very sad. She

stood up and talked to the team. "I called the competition manager. I said 'our bus has broken down. Maybe we will be late.' But the rules are very strict. We must register by seven pm tonight. If we are late, we cannot join the competition tomorrow. We must try!"

It was 90 minutes before another minibus came. Everyone jumped onto the bus.

"Please hurry," said the teacher.

When they finally arrived at Travers railway station, the teacher jumped out. "Please bring all the bags," she said. "I will see if there is another train. But I think it will be too late."

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