



A Very Long Monday



A Story for A1 Readers

Fleydo English School

This little story is for beginner readers. Read it slowly, look at the **bold words** and find them in the Word List at the end. After the story, try the activities: a Word List, a Matching game, Fill in the Blanks, and a Quiz. Have fun!

Chapter 1**The Alarm Is Silent**

Tom wakes up very late

Tom is thirteen years old. Every morning, his **alarm** clock rings at seven o'clock. Then Tom gets up.

But today is Monday. And today, the alarm clock is **silent**. It does not ring!

Tom sleeps and sleeps. Then he opens his eyes. He looks at the clock. It is eight o'clock! School starts at eight thirty!

“Oh no!” Tom shouts. “I am **late**! I am very, very late!”

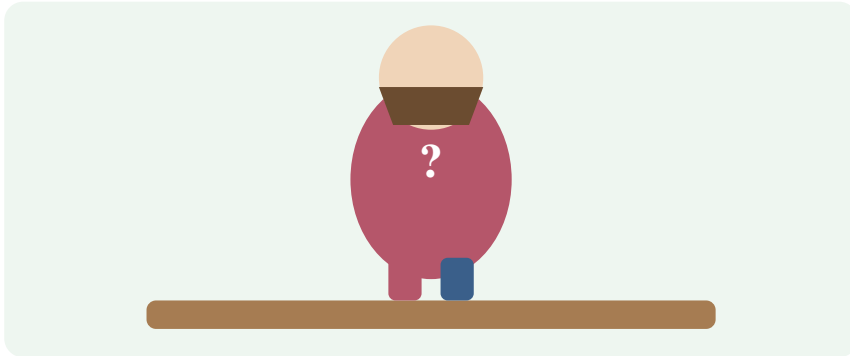
Tom jumps out of bed. His heart goes fast. He has only thirty minutes. There is no time for breakfast.

“This is a bad start,” Tom thinks. “I hope today is not a bad day.” But poor Tom does not know. Today is a very, very long Monday.

Chapter 2

The Wrong Clothes

Tom gets dressed too fast



One red sock, one blue sock!

Tom runs to his cupboard. He is in a big **hurry**. He pulls on the first things he sees.

Tom runs downstairs. His little sister Mia looks at him. She starts to laugh.

“Tom! Your jumper is the wrong way! And your socks are different colours! One is red and one is blue!”

Tom looks down. Mia is right. “I do not have time!” Tom says. “I am late!”

“Wait!” Mia shouts. “You forget your shoes!” Tom looks at his feet. No shoes! Tom puts on his shoes and runs out. What a **strange** morning!

Outside, it is cold. And then... it starts to rain! Tom has no umbrella. “Of course,” Tom says. “Of course it rains today!”

Chapter 3**The Bus Is Gone***Tom misses the school bus*

Tom runs to the bus stop. He runs as fast as he can. But he is too slow.

The bus is at the bus stop. The doors are open. Tom waves his arms. “Wait! Wait for me!” he shouts.

But the bus driver does not see him. The doors close. The bus drives away. “No!” Tom says. “I miss the bus!”

Now Tom must walk to school. It is a long way. And it still rains. Then, a big car drives past. It goes through a big **puddle** of water. Splash!

The dirty water goes all over Tom! Now Tom is wet, dirty, and very late. “Today is **terrible**,” he says.

Tom walks and walks. Finally, he sees his school. He runs to the door. He pushes it. But the door does not open. It is locked!

Chapter 4

The Big Surprise

Tom reads the sign on the door



“School is closed today!”

Then Tom sees a small sign on the door. He reads it slowly. It says: “SCHOOL IS CLOSED TODAY. Today is a holiday. See you tomorrow!”

Tom's mouth opens wide. “A holiday? Today is a holiday? No school today?”

Tom cannot believe it. He runs and hurries and gets wet and dirty — and there is no school today! This Monday is a big **surprise**.

Tom sits down on a wet bench. He is tired, wet, and dirty. And he laughs. “What a morning,” he says. It is so **funny**.

“No alarm, wrong clothes, no bus, dirty water — all for a closed school!”

Tom calls his mum. She laughs. “Oh, Tom! I am sorry. I forget to tell you. Today is a holiday!” “It is okay, Mum,” Tom says with a smile.

Chapter 5**The Walk Home***Tom takes his time*

Tom walks home slowly. He is in no hurry now. The rain stops. The sun comes out. The sky is blue.

On the way home, Tom sees a small dog. The dog is wet and alone. It looks sad. “Hello, little dog,” Tom says. “Are you lost?”

The dog has a **collar** with a name and a phone number. The name is “Rex.” “Don't worry, Rex,” Tom says. “I help you.”

Tom calls the number. A woman answers. She is very happy. “You find my dog! Rex runs away this morning. I am so **worried!**”

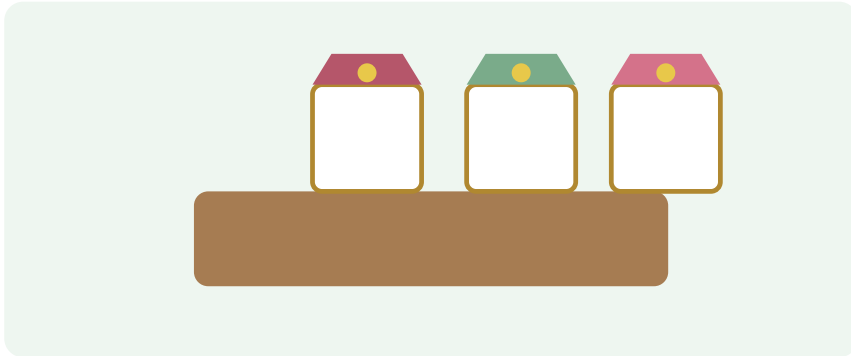
Soon, the woman comes. Rex jumps and wags his tail. “You are a good, kind boy,” the woman says. “How can I say thank you?”

The woman goes to her car. She comes back with a big box. “I have a small cake shop. Please take these cakes.” Tom looks in the box. Six beautiful cakes!

Chapter 6

A Sweet Surprise

Tom comes home with cakes



Six lovely cakes for the family!

Tom walks home with his box of cakes. He is wet and dirty, but he is happy.

At home, his mum and his sister Mia are surprised. “Tom! Why are you so dirty? And what is in the box?”

“It is a long story,” Tom says. He laughs. “But look — cakes! Six cakes for us!”

Tom tells his story. The silent alarm, the wrong socks, the bus, the rain, the dirty water, the closed school. Then Rex the dog and the kind woman.

Mum and Mia laugh and laugh. “What a Monday!” Mum says. “Everything goes wrong, but then it goes right!”

“Yes,” Tom says. He takes a big bite of chocolate cake. “Sometimes a bad day has a sweet **ending.**”

Chapter 7**The Best Bad Day**

Tom thinks about his strange Monday

That night, Tom is in bed. He thinks about his day. What a long, strange Monday!

In the morning, everything is wrong. No alarm. Wrong clothes. No bus. Rain and dirty water.

But in the afternoon, everything is right. A lost dog. A kind woman. Six lovely cakes. A happy family.

“A bad morning,” Tom thinks, “but a good afternoon. Maybe a bad start does not mean a bad day.”

Tom looks at his alarm clock. He puts in a new battery. “Tomorrow, I am not late. I wake up at seven o'clock!”

Tom closes his eyes. He is tired but happy. And the little dog Rex? He is safe at home. And he is the reason for the best bad day ever.

“A bad start does not mean a bad day.”

Word List

Learn these words from the story

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Alarm | a clock that makes a noise to wake you up |
| Silent | with no sound; very quiet |
| Late | after the right time; not early |
| Hurry | doing things very fast because there is little time |
| Strange | not normal; very unusual |
| Puddle | a small pool of water on the ground after rain |
| Terrible | very, very bad |
| Surprise | something you do not expect |
| Funny | something that makes you laugh |
| Collar | a band around an animal's neck with its name |
| Worried | feeling that something bad may happen |
| Ending | the last part of a story or a day |
| Holiday | a special day with no school or work |
| Wet | covered with water; not dry |
| Tired | when you need to rest or sleep |
| Bench | a long seat for two or more people |

Matching

Draw a line from each word to its meaning

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Alarm | a. Something you do not expect |
| 2. Silent | b. A day with no school |
| 3. Late | c. Doing things very fast |
| 4. Hurry | d. The last part of a story |
| 5. Strange | e. It makes you laugh |
| 6. Puddle | f. Not normal; unusual |
| 7. Terrible | g. You think something bad may happen |
| 8. Surprise | h. With no sound; very quiet |
| 9. Funny | i. A clock that wakes you up |
| 10. Worried | j. Very, very bad |
| 11. Ending | k. After the right time |
| 12. Holiday | l. A small pool of water |

Fill in the Blanks

Write the correct word from the box in each gap

alarm · collar · ending · hurry · late · puddle · silent · surprise · terrible ·
worried

1. Tom's _____ clock does not ring this morning.
2. The alarm is _____, so Tom sleeps too long.
3. School starts at eight thirty, and Tom is _____.
4. Tom is in a big _____ and puts on the wrong clothes.
5. A car drives through a _____ and splashes Tom with water.
6. Wet, dirty, and late, Tom says today is _____.
7. The sign says the school is closed. It is a big _____.
8. Tom finds a lost dog with a name on its _____.
9. The dog's owner is happy. She is not _____ now.
10. A bad morning can still have a happy _____.

Comprehension Quiz

Circle the correct answer for each question

1. Why does Tom wake up late?

- A) He stays up all night
- B) His alarm clock is silent
- C) His mum wakes him late
- D) He is sick

2. What time does Tom wake up?

- A) Seven o'clock
- B) Eight o'clock
- C) Nine o'clock
- D) Six o'clock

3. What is wrong with Tom's clothes?

- A) They are too small
- B) His jumper is back to front and his socks do not match
- C) They are dirty
- D) They are wet

4. What happens at the bus stop?

- A) Tom catches the bus
- B) The bus is late
- C) Tom misses the bus
- D) There is no bus

5. Why does Tom get wet and dirty?

- A) He falls down
- B) A car splashes him from a puddle
- C) He swims
- D) He spills water

6. What does the sign on the school door say?

- A) School is open
- B) School is closed today — it is a holiday
- C) Come back at nine
- D) Use the back door

7. How does Tom feel when he reads the sign?

- A) Angry, then he laughs
- B) Very sad all day
- C) Scared
- D) Bored

8. Who does Tom find on the way home?

- A) A cat
- B) A lost dog called Rex
- C) His friend
- D) His teacher

9. What does the kind woman give Tom?

- A) Money
- B) A book
- C) A box of six cakes
- D) A new alarm clock

10. What is the main idea of the story?

- A) Mondays are always bad
- B) A bad start does not mean a bad day
- C) Never help a lost dog
- D) Always set two alarms

Answer Key

For teachers and parents

Matching: 1-i 2-h 3-k 4-c 5-f 6-l 7-j 8-a 9-e 10-g 11-d 12-b

Fill in the Blanks: 1. alarm 2. silent 3. late 4. hurry 5. puddle 6. terrible 7. surprise 8. collar 9. worried 10. ending

Quiz: 1. B 2. B 3. B 4. C 5. B 6. B 7. A 8. B 9. C 10. B



Thank you for reading with Fleydo English School!

Key Ideas: A bad start can have a happy end · Be kind and help others · Laugh at your bad days · Family time is the best time