6 GRAMMAR past tenses

a Read the article about Alistair Brownlee. What did he do?

b Paragraph 2 tells the story of what happened. Most of the verbs are past simple, but there are two examples of the past continuous, and four of the past perfect. Can you find them? Why are they used?

Alistair sacrifices gold... to help his brother

Nobody will remember who won the world triathlon in Cozumel, Mexico, in 2016. Instead, they will remember the sacrifice of Alistair Brownlee, who stopped to help his brother, Jonny, instead of winning the gold medal himself.

As Jonny, 26, entered the last kilometre of the 10 km run, he was winning by a long way – he'd gone very fast in the swimming and cycling stages. But then he began to feel ill, because he hadn't drunk enough in the hot conditions, and he stopped at the side of the road. His brother, Alistair, was running behind him, but when he saw that Jonny had stopped, he didn't run past him to win the race. Instead, in a wonderful act of brotherly love, he took his brother's arm and helped him to run the final few hundred metres. Seconds before they reached the finishing line, South African Henri Schoeman, who had been behind them until then, ran past them both and won the gold medal.

Alistair said, 'It was a natural human reaction to my brother, but for anyone, I would have done the same thing.'



c G p.140 Grammar Bank 5A

d Read the article about Anton Gafarov. Complete it with the verbs in the correct tense.

Canada to the rescue

Russian cross-country skier Anton Gafarov [1] *was competing* (compete) at the Sochi Winter Olympics in 2014. He [2] _____ (do) well in the race when he [3] _____ (fall) and [4] _____ (damage) his left ski. Soon after that, he [5] _____ (fall) again. He realized that his ski [6] _____ (break) into two pieces. He [7] _____ (try) to continue on one ski when suddenly the Canadian ski coach, Justin Wadsworth, [8] _____ (run) out of the crowd and [9] _____ (replace) Gafarov's broken ski with a spare one that he [10] _____ (bring) for his own team. Gafarov [11] _____ (finish) the race in front of his home crowd.



e C **Communication** Good sportsmanship **A** p.107 **B** p.112 Practise telling a story.

f Which of the four stories you've read do you think is the most heroic?

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