

Introduce yourself. Do you enjoy traveling to see the sights? My husband and I take a road trip every year. Sometimes we drive to national parks. Sometimes we drive to Colorado and rent a cabin. We hike and explore the area. Where have you traveled? Do you like to take a road trip or do you prefer flying to your destination?

This story is about a family's road trip. It is a long story, so we will only part of the story today. We will finish the story in future lessons. This story has many uses of the word **START**. Talk about the many meanings of the word "start". After each paragraph, answer the questions.

A FAMILY ROAD TRIP

We packed the car and **started off** early Friday morning for our three day weekend road trip. My wife **started** the car while I locked up. It had taken several days to get ready for this trip. But at last we were on our way

We hadn't gone far when things **started to fall apart**. To **start with**, we had forgotten to bring snacks for the kids. Of course, they were hungry and **started to whine**. We stopped at a convenience store to pick up some food. The prices were crazy. The price of snacks **started at \$5.00**. A few snacks to keep the kids fed cost me \$25.00. I **started to sweat** thinking how fast my money was going out of my pocket.

1. *When did they start off on their trip?*
2. *Who locked up?*
3. *What had they forgotten to bring for the kids?*
4. *Why did the kids whine?*
5. *What did the snacks cost?*
6. *Why was the dad starting to sweat? Was he nervous or angry?*

We hadn't gone far down the road when I realized my tires were low. We stopped at a service station. As I got out of the car, a man suddenly appeared behind me. I **started** and nearly jumped out of my skin. He was a panhandler and wouldn't go away until I gave him some money. There went another \$5 out of my pocket. I got back in the car, but couldn't get the car **to start**. I had to pay the service station attendant to give me a **jump start**. Another \$15 out of my wallet.

1. *What surprised and scared the dad?*
2. *What did he pay the panhandler?*
3. *What did he have to pay the service station attendant for?*

Our trip seemed to be progressing **by fits and starts**. But we drove on. We were almost to the state line when alarm bells started ringing in my head. I remembered locking the front door, but

did I lock the back door? Leaving the house unlocked for three days seemed very **risky**. But we had gone too far **to start over**. When I asked my wife if she locked the door, she **freaked out**. "**Don't start with me**", she said. "I told you the back door was unlocked and to be sure and lock it before we left. How dare you blame me for the door being unlocked," she said. I apologized. I didn't want us to **start off on the wrong foot**.

1. *Why did alarm bells ring in the dad's head?*
2. *What seemed risky?*
3. *Why didn't they turn around and go check the door?*
4. *Why did the wife get mad at him?*
5. *Was the dad afraid he would make his wife mad?*

Grammar Quiz: Choose the correct answer.

1. Pat and Grace have been married (since 20 years / for 20 years).
2. We drove (for / since) a long time.
3. I haven't ridden a bicycle (for / since) I was a child.
4. She has been on vacation (for / since) two weeks.
5. She has been on vacation (for / since) the first of the month.
6. We have lived in this house (for / since) 2010.
7. We have lived in this house (for / since) the twins were born.
8. Where (are you coming / do you come) from?
9. Anna has gone out. Really? What time (has she gone / did she go)?
10. Why (did you go / have you gone) to bed so early last night?
11. Can you describe the woman you saw? Yes, she (has been wearing / was wearing) jeans and a black shirt.
12. Ann didn't see me. She (looked / was looking) in the other direction.
13. During Covid, I (don't / didn't) drive a lot. My gas bill was very low.
14. I asked the taxi driver to slow down. She (has driven / drove) too fast.