

Alesya: No, I haven't. And?

Natalie: The reporter said the BBC

(1. *break*) the 565-year pancake race tradition. He explained that in the morning Joel Defries, a 24-year-old TV presenter of the popular children's TV show "Blue Peter",

(2. *put on*) a blonde wig, a scarf and apron to run in the race. It was good he (3. *not to win*) the race.

Alesya: And who was the winner?

Natalie: Jane Hughes. She said it was a fantastic day. She was pleased so many people (4. *run*) in the race.

Alesya: I am sure it's exciting!



4b.  Write down the completed talks.

Lesson 3. Is it worth breaking traditions?

1. "BBC breaks 565-year pancake tradition" was the title in Olney newspapers. Why? Remember as many facts as you can in three minutes. Who could remember more facts?

2a. The decision to allow¹ a non-resident man to take part in the world-famous pancake race was widely discussed in Olney mass media. Read and compare part of the interview with OlneyOnline and its written Internet version.

OlneyOnline correspondent: OK, Joel.

Let's go back a week. *Your programme producer* tells you: "You'll have to run in the race." What's your first reaction?

Joel Defries: I remember I said: "I do get strange challenges working for the programme. All right! All right! I'm cool with it. I think I won't win because *that will be* unfair to women."



¹ allow [ə'laʊ] – разрешать

After the interview OlneyOnline wrote:

When *the programme producer* **told** the presenter *he'd have* to run in the race, Joel Defries answered that *he* **did get** strange challenges working for the programme. The next moment *he* **was** cool with it. And *he* **thought he wouldn't win** because *that* **would be** unfair to women.

2b. Analyse all the grammar forms. Can you guess the rule?



Grammar focus: *Sequence of Tenses*

[main clause: Past Simple] that (object clause: Past Tenses).

(Present Simple → Past Simple)

(Present Continuous → Past Continuous)

(Present Perfect → Past Perfect)

(Past Simple → Past Perfect)

(Future Simple → Future Simple-in-the-Past)

See "Grammar reference" on pages 260–261.

3a. Put the verbs in the correct tense forms to complete Tony Evans's, head of the Olney pancake committee, interview.

Tony Evans, head of the Olney pancake committee explained: "First 'Blue Peter' promised (пообещали) they (1. *come*) and (2. *film*) the children's pancake races and (3. *put*) it on the show. But then they rang and said the producer (4. *do*) it. I was cross (=angry) as we (5. *mention*) they were coming in all the newspapers, on TV and on the radio, so I wrote a strong letter to the producer. He said if they came they now (6. *have to*) make a big thing of it and get the presenter to race and it (7. *be*) in next week's show."

"It presented me with a dilemma – either I would have to let everyone down and say 'Blue Peter' were not coming, or I would have to break with tradition."

a film – to film

to let somebody down – подвести кого-либо

"Over the last few years a lot of the girls have run to collect money for charity and I thought that the BBC (8. *give*) the town *publicity* so I decided to let him run."

“I consulted the other members of the committee and it was on condition that (при условии, что) he couldn’t win the race and he had to wear a cap and an apron.”

3b.   Listen and check.

3c. Do you think Tony Evans was right? Discuss in groups. One group is for and the other is against the decision.

3d. Report to the class. What’s the dominating opinion?

4a. A lot of people in Olney were angry about breaking the tradition which had been around for centuries. Do you agree with them? This is what they said.

“Letting a man in the race means that the traditional idea has been forgotten and thrown away. Sadly the money interest has become predominant,” said local resident Geoff Bacchus [ˈbækəs].

predominate (v) – predominant (adj)

Another resident Sally Harris, 48, added: “It’s a real shame this ancient tradition has been ruined. This has always been something for the women of the town and now it has all been thrown away. It will never be the same again.”

4b. Report the people’s opinions.

Geoff Bacchus said that ...

Sally Harris added that ...

5a. Take part in the interviews. What do you think will happen to the tradition next year? Write your thoughts.

HELP BOX

take part in, attract crowds of people, have a lot of fun, sell a lot of pancakes, make a lot of money, improve the town’s budget, improve ... , collect more money for ... , avoid running in a race, attract fewer people

Model. I *think* the BBC presenter *will* take part in the pancake race again next year.

