

Tóm lược (Summary)

Lightning Bolt Lady goes looking for her superpowers. But will she ever find them? And will she ever help...anyone?

Quý cô Tia chớp đi tìm siêu năng lực của mình. Nhưng liệu cô có bao giờ tìm được chúng không? Liệu cô có bao giờ...giúp người được không?

Hội thoại (Conversation)

ANNOUNCER: When last we saw Anna, she had made a new friend. And they had been talking about superheroes for a while when suddenly Anna became Lightning Bolt Lady!

ANNOUNCER: She tried to find her superpowers. But it did not go well.

ANNOUNCER: She can't fly, become invisible or create a force field. And she really cannot walk through walls. Ouch, Lightning Bolt Lady.

ANNOUNCER: She had been walking into that wall for about 15 minutes when she had a great idea.

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: I just had a great idea!

ANNOUNCER: I can't wait to hear this one! But first, let's talk about grammar.

ANNOUNCER: Professor Bot is on vacation this week. I'm the announcer. So, I'm going to tell you about the past perfect continuous.

ANNOUNCER: We use this verb tense to show that an action started in the past and continued to *another* time or action in the past.

ANNOUNCER: For example, I said, “She had been walking into that wall for about 15 minutes when she had a great idea.”

ANNOUNCER: Had been walking is the past perfect continuous of the verb *walk*. It’s had been plus the -ing form of the verb.

ANNOUNCER: You’ll hear me use this verb tense a few more times today.

ANNOUNCER: Now, what am I forgetting? Oh right! Lightning Bolt Lady’s great idea.

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: If I want to know my superpowers, I’ll need to learn about lightning!

ANNOUNCER: So, she read many books about lightning.

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: Wow. A **lightning strike** usually lasts less than a **second**.

(She tells this to a person and he slowly moves away.)

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: Lightning is really fast and I like speed walking. So, maybe one of my superpowers is super-speed walking! *(to stranger)* Bye!

(She begins to super-speed walk.)

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: Check! Super-speed walking is definitely one of my superpowers.

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: Lightning has **millions** of **volts** of electricity. Amazing!

(She puts her hand up and lightning bolts shoot from her fingers.)

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: Wow! I can **charge** a lot of **batteries** with this superpower!

ANNOUNCER: She had been looking for hours for someone to help when she found her chance.

WOMAN: Hello? Hello? I'm sorry. I'm going to have to call you back. My phone is dying.

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: Excuse me, I can charge your phone.

WOMAN: Really? Thanks!

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: I'm Lightning Bolt Lady!

*(She takes the woman's phone and shoots it with a lightning bolt. But it turns into **ashes**. Then, she gives the woman lots of money and smiles and says goodbye.)*

ANNOUNCER: She had been practicing her superpowers all day. Suddenly, she heard a **terrible** sound – a child's **disappointment**.

ANNOUNCER: These children tried to light a fire for over an hour. But then, they **gave up**.

PARENT: Hey kids, that wood will never burn. It's too wet.

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: Small humans, what is wrong?

CHILD: Stranger danger!

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: I'm Lightning Bolt Lady!

YOUNG MAN: Oh no. It's you.

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: *(to YOUNG MAN:)* We meet again. And guess what: I found my superpowers.

CHILD: Well, we need a fire to toast the **marshmallows** to make **S'mores**.

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: I can help.

YOUNG MAN: We don't need a super-speed walker but thanks!

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: Super-speed walking is just one of my superpowers. I can also do this!

(She tries to use her lightning bolts but it doesn't go well.)

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: *Sorry! Let me* do it again.

(She lights the fire with her lightning bolts.)

CHILDREN: Thanks, Lightning Bolt Lady!

YOUNG MAN: Lightning Bolt Lady

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: You're welcome. But you don't have enough **firewood**. Using my super-speed walking, I will get more.

(She super-speed walks around to get firewood.)

PARENT: Lightning Bolt Lady, come back! A lightning storm is coming!

LIGHTNING BOLT LADY: **Not a chance!** There's not a **cloud** in the ...

CHILD: Lightning Bolt Lady, are you okay?

CHILD: Where's your super-suit?

ANNA: Oh no! I've lost my superpowers!

YOUNG MAN: It's starting to rain. Do you want to go inside and eat some S'mores?

ANNA: You read my mind.

ANNA: You know, I thought mind reading would be one of my superpowers. But it wasn't.

CHILD: That'd be a cool superpower. But I'd rather be able to talk to animals.

CHILD: That would be a cool superpower.

Từ ngữ mới (New Words)

ash – n. the soft gray powder that remains after something, such as wood, has been completely burned and destroyed by fire

average – adj. a number that is calculated by adding quantities together and then dividing the total by the number of quantities

battery – n. a device that is placed inside a machine (such as a clock, toy, or car) to supply it with electricity

cause – v. something or someone that makes something happen or exist

charge – v. to give an amount of electricity to something

cloud – n. a white or gray mass in the sky that is made of many very small drops of water

definitely – adv. without doubt

disappointment – n. the state of feeling of being disappointed

firewood – n. wood used to make fire

give up – phrasal verb. to stop an activity or effort

marshmallow -- a soft, white, sweet food made of sugar and eggs

million – n. the number 1,000,000

not a chance – *expression*. there is no possibility

second – n. a unit of time that is equal to $\frac{1}{60}$ of a minute

s'mores – n. a sweet snack consisting of a chocolate bar and toasted marshmallows sandwiched between graham crackers

strike – n. the act of hitting something with force

terrible – adj. very shocking and upsetting

volt – n. a unit for measuring the force of an electrical current

Thực hành (Practice)

Now, you try it!

First, read about the **past perfect continuous** verb tense below.
Then, write two or three sentences in the Comments section about an action that started in the past and continued to another time or action.

Be sure to use past perfect continuous in each sentence!

For example: They had been studying English for two years before they began school in Washington, D.C.

Quá khứ hoàn thành tiếp diễn (Past Perfect Continuous)

We use the past perfect continuous verb tense in two ways:

Use #1

To show that something started in the past and continued up until another time or action in the past

Examples:

- They **had been talking** about superheroes for a while when suddenly Anna became Lightning Bolt Lady!
- How long **had** Lightning Bolt Lady **been trying** to find her superpowers?
- She'**d** not **been trying** for more than a day when she found her chance.

Use #2

To show that something **caused** something else in the past

Examples:

- Lightning Bolt Lady was happy because she **had been using** her superpowers all day.
- The children were disappointed because they'**d** **been wanting** to make S'mores.
- The young man was surprised when Lightning Bolt Lady arrived because he **had** not **been waiting** for her.

Notice that, with the past perfect continuous, we often shorten the word *had* with personal pronouns: I'd / you'd / he'd / she'd / we'd / they'd.

Tự kiểm tra (Test Yourself)

How well do you know the grammar from Level 2? Test yourself!

In Lesson 25, you will see examples of grammar that you have learned in Level 2. Look for sentences in Lesson 25 with:

- Past perfect
- Conditionals
- Adverb Clauses
- Prepositions
- Passive voice
- Other grammar you've learned in Level 2

Then, write those sentences in the Comments section. For example:
She had been walking into that wall for about 15 minutes when she had a great idea. (The adverb clause is "when she had a great idea.")