

“STRESSED OUT”

I. Match the pictures of Ralph’s week to the story in the e-mail below, then complete the text with the phrases below **in bold**.

**finally**

**But that’s not all**

**To start**

**eventually**

**on top of all that**

**All told**

**Plus**

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Sorry it took so long to write back to you. Last week was really, really, I mean *really* busy. We had so much work leading up to the big conference that it was really quite unbelievable.

\_\_\_\_\_, my boss had told me to do all the reports of the quarter before Friday, and I wasn’t sure if I would have time to finish them all.

\_\_\_\_\_, I had been sick the week before so I was behind schedule with all my work.

Then, \_\_\_\_\_, on Thursday, my colleague Dan asked me to send about a million faxes to his contacts in Asia, because they were urgent and he was going to be in an important meeting all afternoon.

And then, \_\_\_\_\_, just when I thought I was finished for the day, the boss called me on my mobile. Can you believe he asked me to remind him to call Hong Kong the next morning during the conference?

\_\_\_\_\_, —then we arrive to the conference and in the first workshop, we’re sitting there in the front row, and we realize that the presenter has absolutely no idea of how to work the projector! So we showed him how to use it, and luckily, just before the presentation started, I remembered to call the boss—thank God, who knows what might have happened if I hadn’t!

None of us really even wanted to go to the conference, but the boss forced us to go. So after the last poster session on Saturday, we decided to go to a party someone had set up in the reception of the hotel. In fact, Betty didn’t feel too good but \_\_\_\_\_ we persuaded her to come.

\_\_\_\_\_, I suppose we had a good time—the music was decent, and there was open bar for conference attendees, so we definitely got the chance to unwind after a long week.

II. The sentences below are out of order. Put the words in the boxes in order to form sentences from the story. **You must put the verbs in the proper form.** Look at the text to check after you do each one.

1. before boss [do] Friday me My reports [tell] the.

2. a [ask] colleague fax me My [send] the.

3. [ask] [call] He him Hong Kong me [remind].

4. [go] her party [persuade] we to the.

5. how projector We [show] them [use] the.

6. boss [force] [go] Our us.

III. What do these verbs have in common? How is their *meaning* similar?

want            tell    ask    persuade    force

Can you think of other verbs that may belong to this group?

IV. Prepare and write an anecdote to tell about a time you were really stressed out. Why were you so stressed out? What did you do to unwind? (*Try to use the phrases in part one to structure your story.*)