

home alone (1) a big fuss

I spent the day playing cards with Aunt Speed. Cards are supposed to _____ your problems by making you concentrate but it doesn't always work. The _____ I played I couldn't stop wishing Timo was around. Even I was surprised to realize that I missed my brother. I _____ he felt the same way. Did he miss me too? Or was he happy to be on his own in photography camp? I'd never felt so lonely before. And I felt even lonelier after I went to bed. _____ I hadn't forgiven Timo for the lies he told on Christmas Eve, we would still talk every night. Actually, he _____ talking. He knew he was in my bad books and was trying to _____, in a half-hearted sort of way.

The night before he left for camp he was still going on about the autogyro. "Brian? Are you asleep?" – "Not yet. And anyway, _____ if I'm asleep or not?" – "Guess what I found out?" – "Something about an autogyro, no doubt." – "Yeah. I explained to dad how you thought you were getting the kit for Christmas and how disappointed you were when you got a coat instead and how you've been _____ it." – "Can't you think of anything new? This is _____." – "No. This time I really mean it. Cross my heart. You know how mom and dad were upset about being in Ireland on your birthday?"

He was right about that. Before leaving, our parents _____ about it. They kept saying how sad it was that they'd be gone on my birthday. They assumed that _____ to help me eat the cake they would spoil the whole day for me. I told them I _____. It was nice to see them take this trip together. They had earned it and we were all happy for them. It's true that birthdays _____ very seriously in our family but it definitely wasn't reason enough for them to skip a free trip to Ireland.

by not being around | did make a big fuss | did most of the | didn't mind | even though | getting old | have always been taken | make amends | obsessing about | take your mind off | what do you care | whole time | wondered if