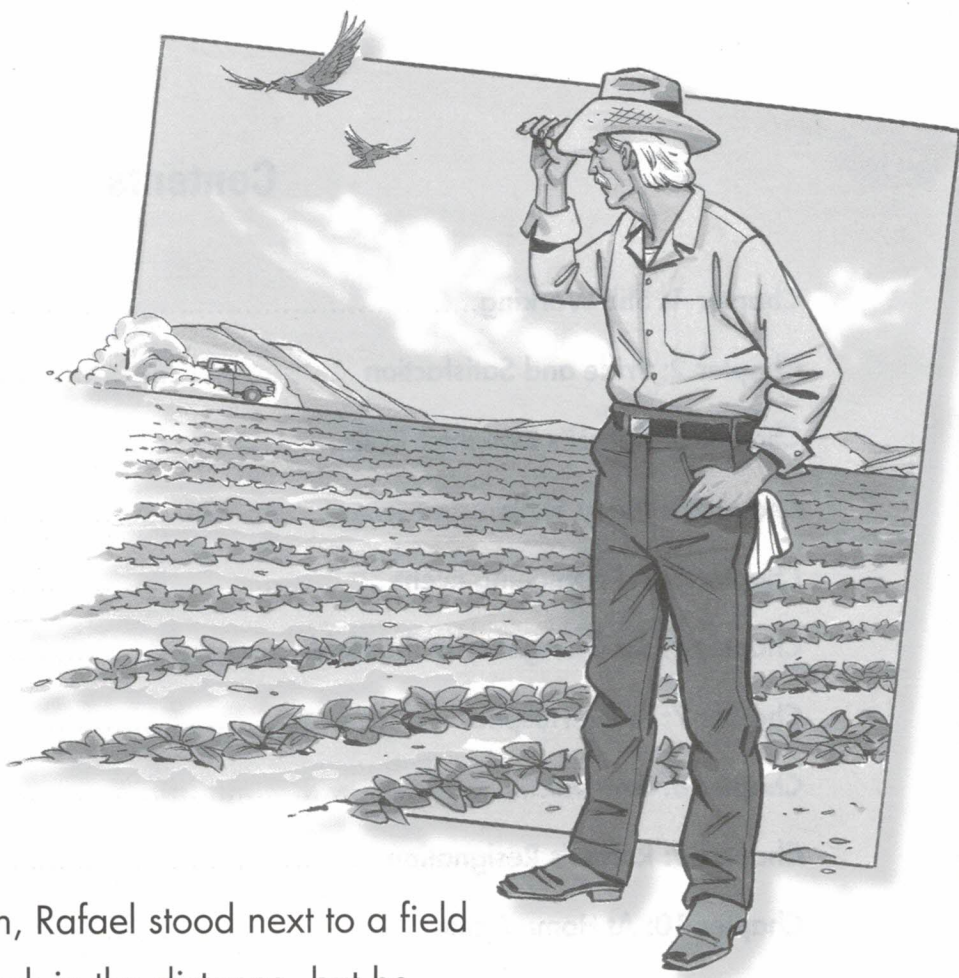
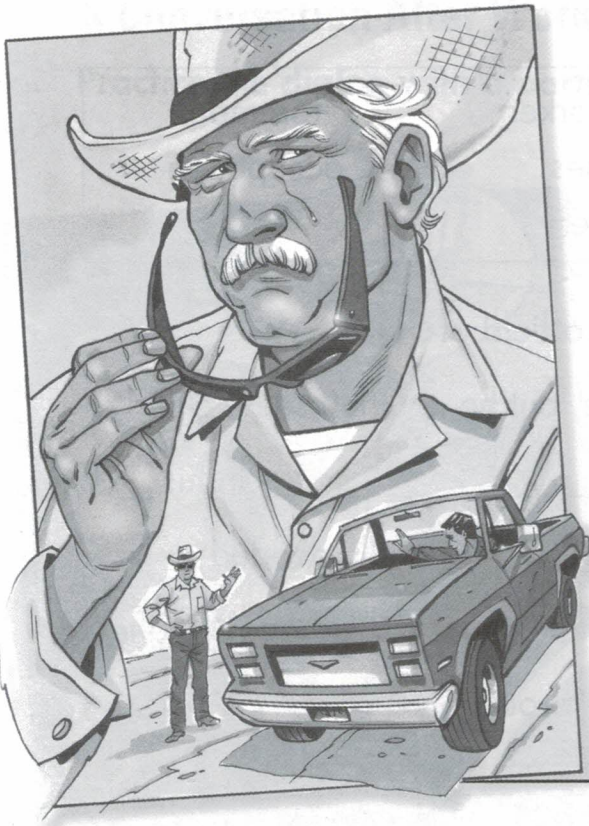


Chapter 1 Still Working



As the sun was going down, Rafael stood next to a field of strawberries. He heard a truck in the distance, but he couldn't see it clearly. Rafael had cataracts. That meant that the lenses in his eyes were cloudy. For Rafael, faraway images were blurry. He really needed surgery. "Perhaps I'll have that operation next year," he thought, "after I retire." For the moment, Rafael preferred not to think about it.

For thirty-five years Rafael had been a migrant farmworker, traveling from Northern California to Arizona and back. Although he was a foreman now, working in the sun had damaged his vision. The hard labor had also hurt his back and knees. He knew there was a higher risk of disease in his occupation. Without question, being a farmworker had shortened his wife's life. She died of cancer eight years ago. Rafael believed that chemical pesticides and fertilizers may have caused her illness. Tears formed in Rafael's eyes. He missed his wife very much, and the loss was still painful.



Finally, Rafael saw the truck. As it stopped next to him, he wiped away his tears. He put on sunglasses and kicked the dirt off his boots. Then he got into the passenger seat of Lorenzo's truck. Lorenzo shook Rafael's hand and smiled. "Why are you here, old man?" he asked in Spanish. "You're sixty-five years old. Sit in your rocking chair. Enjoy life!"

"I am enjoying life," answered Rafael. "But I'm working for one more year in the fields."

"Why?" asked Lorenzo. "You can retire now. You don't need this place."

"Perhaps," said Rafael. "But this place needs me."

Answer the questions.

1. Where did Rafael stand? What did he hear in the distance?
2. What did Rafael have? What did that mean?
3. How did faraway images look to Rafael?
4. What did Rafael really need?
5. For how long had Rafael been a migrant farmworker?
6. What had working in the sun damaged? What else had the hard labor hurt?
7. What was there a higher risk of in his occupation?
8. What did Rafael believe may have caused his wife's illness?
9. What did Rafael finally see?
10. What did Rafael wipe away?
11. What did Rafael put on? What did he kick off his boots?
12. What did Rafael get into? Whose hand did he shake?

Complete the story.

cataracts	disease	farmworker	foreman
knees	labor	lenses	occupation
pesticides	strawberries	surgery	vision

As the sun was going down, Rafael stood next to a field of _____¹. He heard a truck in the distance, but he couldn't see it clearly. Rafael had _____². That meant that the _____³ in his eyes were cloudy. For Rafael, faraway images were blurry. He really needed _____⁴. "Perhaps I'll have that operation next year," he thought, "after I retire." For the moment, Rafael preferred not to think about it.

For thirty-five years Rafael had been a migrant _____⁵,
traveling from Northern California to Arizona and back. Although he
was a _____⁶ now, working in the sun had damaged his
_____⁷. The hard _____⁸ had also hurt his back and
_____⁹. He knew there was a higher risk of _____¹⁰ in
his _____¹¹. Without question, being a farmworker had shortened
his wife's life. She died of cancer eight years ago. Rafael believed that chemical
_____¹² and fertilizers may have caused her illness.

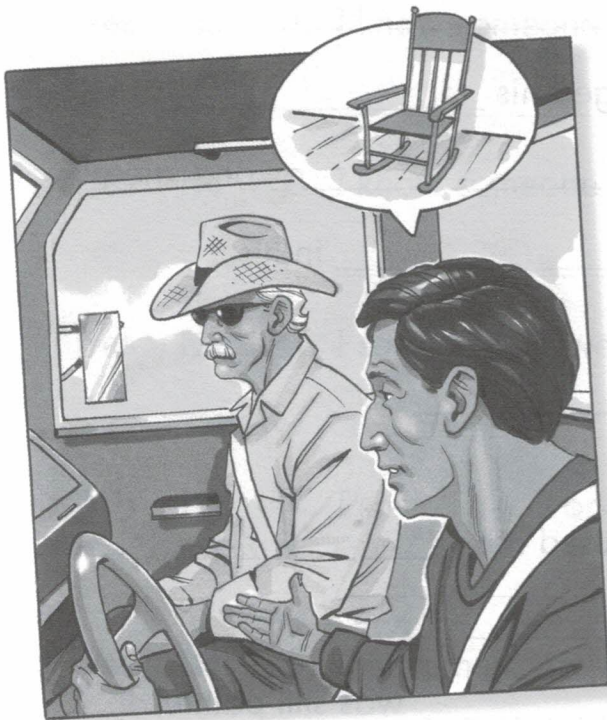
Meanings

Read each sentence. Look at the underlined word. Circle *a* or *b*.

1. For Rafael, faraway images were blurry.
 - a. higher
 - b. unclear
2. For thirty-five years Rafael had been a migrant farmworker.
 - a. traveling
 - b. retiring
3. He missed his wife very much, and the loss was still painful.
 - a. risky
 - b. hurtful

A Conversation After Work

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A: Hi, Lorenzo. Thanks for the ride.

B: It's my pleasure . . . But I have one question.

A: Sure. What is it?

B: Why are you here, old man?

A: What do you mean?

B: You're sixty-five years old. Sit in your rocking chair. Enjoy life!

A: I am enjoying life. But I'm working for one more year in the fields.

B: Why? You can retire now. You don't need this place.

A: Perhaps. But this place needs me.

Past-Tense Verbs

A. Write the present tense of the irregular past-tense verbs below.

1. meant _____

5. shook _____

2. saw _____

6. hurt _____

3. knew _____

7. stood _____

4. thought _____

8. heard _____

B. Read the answers below. Then write the past-tense questions.

1. Did Rafael stand next to a field of strawberries?

Yes, Rafael stood near a field of strawberries.

2. _____

Yes, he heard a truck in the distance.

3. _____

Yes, the hard labor hurt his back and knees.

Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing words.

1. For thirty-five years, Rafael had been a migrant _____.
2. Working in the _____ had damaged his _____.
3. The hard _____ had also hurt his _____ and knees.
4. There was a higher _____ of _____ in his occupation.
5. Being a farmworker had shortened his _____.
6. Chemical pesticides and fertilizers may have caused her _____.
7. _____ formed in Rafael's _____.
8. He missed his wife very much, and the _____ was still painful.
9. Finally, Rafael saw the _____.
10. He put on _____ and kicked the dirt off his _____.

Pronunciation

Check (✓) *d*, *t*, or *id* to show the pronunciation of the final sound in the past-tense verbs below.

	d	t	id		d	t	id
1. preferred	_____	_____	_____	6. damaged	_____	_____	_____
2. kicked	_____	_____	_____	7. wiped	_____	_____	_____
3. formed	_____	_____	_____	8. believed	_____	_____	_____
4. shortened	_____	_____	_____	9. caused	_____	_____	_____
5. needed	_____	_____	_____	10. missed	_____	_____	_____

What about you?

Circle Yes or No. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes No 1. I know someone who needs eye surgery.

Yes No 2. I know someone who is a migrant farmworker.

Yes No 3. I sometimes travel for my job.

Yes No 4. I sometimes work in the sun.

Yes No 5. I think there are health risks in my job.

Yes No 6. I miss someone very much.

Yes No 7. I think people enjoy their lives more after they retire.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. Is there something that you need to do, but prefer not to think about? If so, what is it and why don't you want to do it?
2. What kinds of jobs require very hard labor? How can these jobs hurt workers?
3. At what age do people usually retire in your native country? What are some good and bad things about retirement?