

Chapter 13

Back to Work



Everyone was happy to see Rafael again. People in the fields, packers, and cooler workers all welcomed him warmly. Even better, Rafael had a clearer view of all of them, and his better vision gave him a lot more confidence at work. One day, he saw an orange-tree picker on an unsteady ladder. Rafael ran to hold the bottom of the ladder with his own hands. He would not have noticed this problem just a few months earlier.

Rafael also noticed someone else: Inez Arroyo. She was outside, taking a break from the cooler. "Welcome back!" said Inez, removing the gloves that she wore inside. "We've missed you."

"And I've missed all of you," said Rafael, shaking her hand cordially. "How are you feeling?"

"Much better, thanks," said Inez. "Even though I have to wear warmer clothes in my new job, I'm very happy to be out of the sun." Rafael saw that Inez was in fact a very pretty woman. She had long black hair, streaked with gray, and a kind face.

"How is Marta?" asked Rafael.



"Oh, she's fine," responded Inez. "She's studying English at night," she said. "She's made a lot of friends at school. I'm thinking about taking a class too."

"That's a great idea," said Rafael. "Speaking English fluently will help you advance in your job—even here on the farm," he said. Then Rafael looked down at his boots and shuffled in the dirt. "Um," he said. "Would you like to have a cup of coffee with me sometime?"

Answer the questions.

1. Who was happy to see Rafael again? How did they welcome him?
2. What did Rafael's better vision give him at work?
3. Who did he see on an unsteady ladder one day?
4. What did Rafael run to do?
5. What would he have not noticed just a few months earlier?
6. Who else did Rafael notice? Where was she?
7. What did Inez say? What did she remove?
8. What did Rafael see? What did Inez have?
9. What was Inez's daughter doing at night? What did she make at school?
10. What was Inez thinking about taking too?
11. How would speaking English fluently help Inez in her job?
12. What did Rafael ask Inez?

Complete the story.

bottom	break	confidence	cooler
gloves	hands	inside	ladder
months	packers	picker	view

Everyone was happy to see Rafael again. People in the fields,
_____, and cooler workers all welcomed him warmly. Even better,
1
Rafael had a clearer _____ of all of them, and his better vision gave
2
him a lot more _____ at work. One day, he saw an orange-tree
3
_____ on an unsteady _____. Rafael ran to hold the
4 _____ 5
_____ of the ladder with his own _____. He would not
6 _____ 7
have noticed this problem just a few _____ earlier.
8

Rafael also noticed someone else: Inez Arroyo. She was outside, taking a _____⁹ from the _____¹⁰. "Welcome back!" said Inez, removing the _____¹¹ that she wore _____¹². "We've missed you."

Meanings

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

- One day, he saw an orange-tree picker on an unsteady ladder.
a. firm b. unstable
- "And I've missed all of you," said Rafael, shaking her hand cordially.
a. warmly b. coldly
- "Speaking English fluently will help you advance in your job—even here on the farm," he said.
a. quickly b. smoothly

A Conversation Outside the Cooler

Practice the dialog with a partner.



- A. Welcome back! We've missed you.
- B. And I've missed all of you. How are you feeling?
- A. Much better, thanks. Even though I have to wear warmer clothes in my new job, I'm very happy to be out of the sun.
- B. I'm glad to hear that. And how is Marta?
- A. Oh, she's fine. She's studying English at night. She's made a lot of friends at school. I'm thinking about taking a class too.
- B. That's a great idea. Speaking English fluently will help you advance in your job—even here on the farm.

Check the ways to improve.

People can improve their language skills in many ways. Check (✓) the best ways to develop English fluency. Write other ideas on the lines below.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take an English class. | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorize the irregular English verbs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Read books in English. | <input type="checkbox"/> Use English computer programs. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to the radio in English. | <input type="checkbox"/> Watch TV in English. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practice English with a partner. | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel to an English-speaking country. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Study English grammar. | <input type="checkbox"/> Speak English with neighbors. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Watch online videos in English. | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat what native speakers say. |
-
-

Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing words.

1. "And I've _____ all of you," said Rafael, _____ her hand cordially.
2. "Even _____ I have to wear _____ clothes in my new job, I'm very happy to be out of the sun."
3. Rafael _____ that Inez was in fact a very _____ woman.
4. She had long _____ hair, streaked with _____, and a kind face.
5. "_____ is Marta?" _____ Rafael.
6. "Oh, she's _____," responded Inez. "She's studying _____ at night."
7. "She's made a lot of _____ at school. I'm thinking about taking a _____ too."
8. "That's a great _____," said Rafael. "Speaking English fluently will help you _____ in your job—even here on the farm."
9. Then Rafael looked down at his _____ and shuffled in the _____.
10. "Would you like to have a _____ of _____ with me sometime?"

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. welcomed	_____	_____	_____	3. advanced	_____	_____	_____
2. looked	_____	_____	_____	4. responded	_____	_____	_____

What about you?

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

Yes **No** 1. I sometimes welcome people warmly.

Yes **No** 2. I want to have more confidence at my job.

Yes **No** 3. I sometimes notice problems at work.

Yes **No** 4. I sometimes have to wear warmer clothes in my job.

Yes **No** 5. I study English at night.

Yes **No** 6. I make friends at my school.

Yes **No** 7. I think speaking English fluently can help me advance in my job.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. What are some appropriate things to say and do when a co-worker returns to work after a medical leave?
2. Do you ever notice dangerous situations in your workplace? What are some ways to help co-workers avoid injuries on the job?
3. How can speaking English fluently help you to advance in your job or improve your daily life?