

Chapter 14

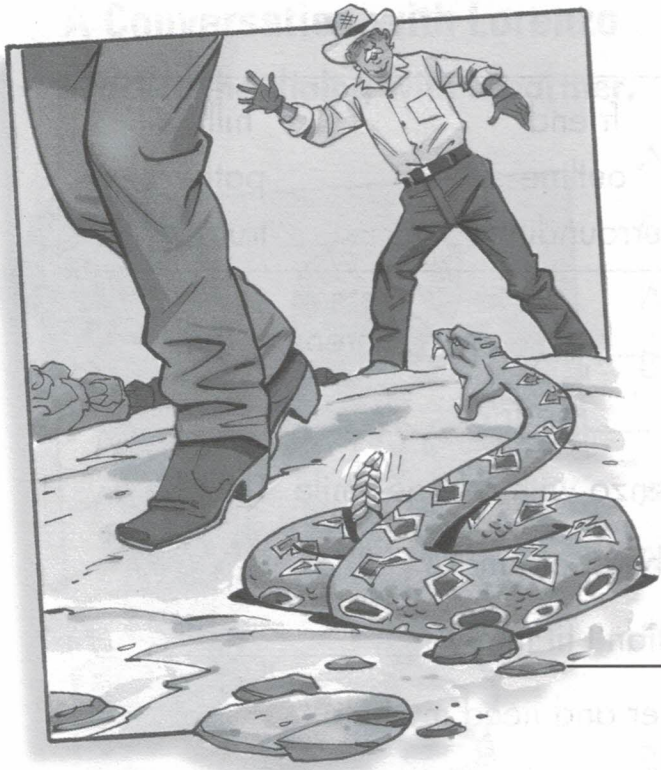
A Shocking Sight



Rafael was very happy to see his old friend, Lorenzo. They hugged warmly on a rocky dirt path near a lettuce field. “Where is your rocking chair?” asked Lorenzo with a huge smile. Then he continued joking. “Why are you here, old man?”

“Well,” replied Rafael, “the rocking chair didn’t fit in my truck . . . And I came here because *you’re* getting older and need my help.” Both men laughed. Rafael looked into the distance. Since his surgery, he was able to see his surroundings much more distinctly. He could count every row of lettuce in the field. He could see the outline of every brown hill in the background.

It was time for Lorenzo to return to his truck, parked on the other side of the field. Rafael waved good-bye. Then he watched as Lorenzo walked about a dozen steps in the direction of his truck. That’s when something strange caught Rafael’s eye. Just three feet from Lorenzo, a creature was moving on the rocks. It was a rattlesnake! As Lorenzo got nearer, the rattlesnake shook its tail threateningly and got into a striking pose. But Lorenzo still didn’t notice it. “Watch out!” yelled Rafael. “A rattlesnake—on your left!” Lorenzo quickly and quietly moved away from the venomous



reptile. As the snake slithered away in the opposite direction, Rafael ran toward Lorenzo. "Are you okay?"

"Wow!" exclaimed Lorenzo, holding his heart. "I didn't see that snake at all! But I'm glad you did!"

"I told you that I had a reason to be here," said Rafael triumphantly. "You still need me—that's clear. Can you see that now?"

Answer the questions.

1. Who was Rafael very happy to see?
2. Where did they hug warmly?
3. What was Rafael able to see after his surgery?
4. What could he count? What could he see the outline of?
5. Where was Lorenzo's truck parked?
6. How far did Lorenzo walk in the direction of his truck?
7. What was moving on the rocks just three feet from Lorenzo?
8. What did the rattlesnake do as Lorenzo got nearer?
9. What pose did it get into?
10. How did Lorenzo move away from the venomous reptile?
11. In what direction did the snake slither away?
12. Who did Rafael run toward?

Complete the story.

background

distance

friend

hill

joking

lettuce

outline

path

row

surgery

surroundings

truck

Rafael was very happy to see his old _____₁, Lorenzo. They hugged warmly on a rocky dirt _____₂ near a _____₃ field. "Where is your rocking chair?" asked Lorenzo with a huge smile. Then he continued _____₄. "Why are you here, old man?"

"Well," replied Rafael, "the rocking chair didn't fit in my _____₅ . . . and I came here because *you're* getting older and need my help."

Both men laughed. Rafael looked into the _____₆. Since his _____₇, he was able to see his _____₈ much more clearly. He could count every _____₉ of lettuce in the field. He could see the _____₁₀ of every brown _____₁₁ in the _____₁₂.

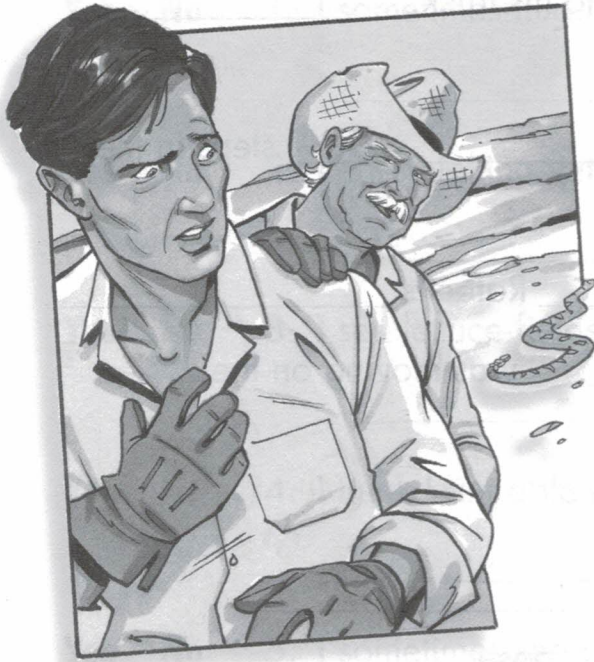
Meanings

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

- Since his surgery, he was able to see his surroundings much more distinctly.
a. beautifully b. clearly
- As Lorenzo got nearer, the rattlesnake shook its tail threateningly and got into a striking pose.
a. aggressively b. hungrily
- "I told you that I had a reason to be here," said Rafael triumphantly.
a. jokingly b. proudly

A Conversation with Lorenzo

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A. Watch out! A rattlesnake—on your left!

B. (Gasp)

A. Are you okay?

B. Wow! I didn't see that snake at all! But I'm glad you did!

A. I told you that I had a reason to be here.

B. Yes, you certainly did.

A. You still need me—that's clear. Can you see that now?

B. Yes, I can definitely see that now. Thank you for the warning!

Check the right things to do.

You see a venomous reptile. Check (✓) the things that are good to do. Write other ideas on the lines below.

Try to catch it.

Scream and run.

Move it to another area.

Call animal control officers.

Give it some food.

Throw rocks at it.

Wait for a striking pose.

Quickly and quietly move away.

Listen carefully for a rattle.

Approach it very slowly.

Touch it gently.

Leave it alone.

Step on it.

Poke it with a stick.

Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing words.

1. It was time for Lorenzo to _____ to his truck, _____ on the other side of the field.
2. Then he watched as Lorenzo walked about a _____ steps in the _____ of his truck.
3. That's when something strange _____ Rafael's _____.
4. Just three feet from Lorenzo, a _____ was moving on the _____.
5. It was a _____!
6. As Lorenzo got nearer, the rattlesnake shook its _____ threateningly and got into a _____ pose.
7. But Lorenzo _____ didn't _____ it.
8. "Watch _____!" yelled Rafael. "A rattlesnake—on your _____!"
9. Lorenzo quickly and _____ moved away from the venomous _____.
10. As the snake slithered away in the _____ direction, Rafael ran _____ Lorenzo.

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. exclaimed	_____	_____	_____	4. waved	_____	_____	_____
2. continued	_____	_____	_____	5. counted	_____	_____	_____
3. slithered	_____	_____	_____	6. joked	_____	_____	_____

What about you?

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

Yes No 1. I sometimes hug old friends warmly.

Yes No 2. I enjoy joking with my friends.

Yes No 3. I see lettuce fields where I live.

Yes No 4. I think I am able to see my surroundings distinctly.

Yes No 5. I sometimes see creatures moving on rocks.

Yes No 6. I know that rattlesnakes are venomous reptiles.

Yes No 7. I sometimes see rattlesnakes.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. How do you joke around with your good friends? What can a friend say to make you laugh?
2. Can you describe the physical surroundings of your native country? How are they different from the place where you live now?
3. Do any venomous creatures live in your area? If so, what are they? What can you do to avoid them? What can you do if one bites or stings you?