

Chapter 3

Rafael's Daughter Calls



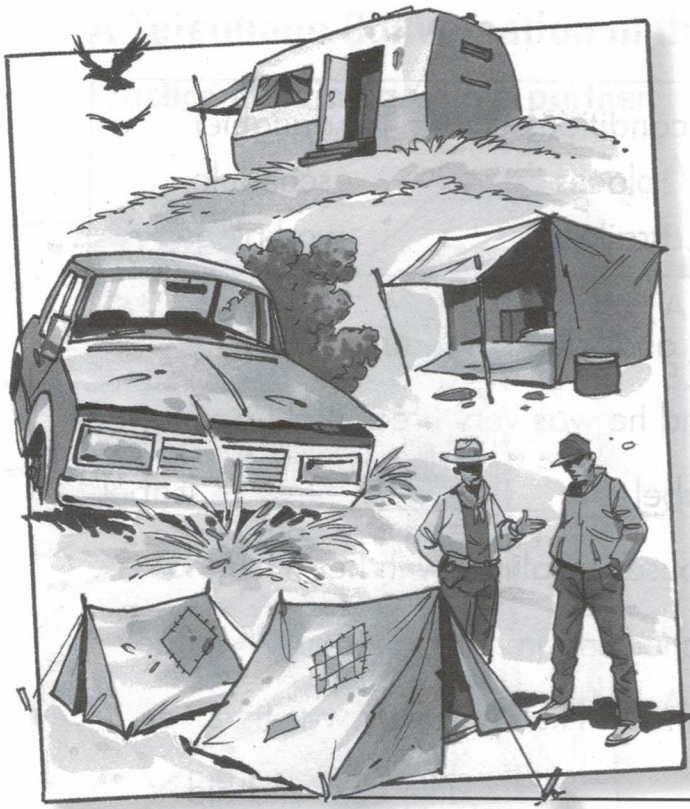
Rafael walked into his apartment and sat down on the sofa. It had been a long day and he was very tired. Right on schedule, the phone rang. It was Isabel, his daughter. Isabel was thirty-two years old. She lived in Rafael's house in Salinas with her husband and two children. "*Papi*," said Isabel, "I'm just checking in. Are you okay?"

"Of course I'm okay," answered Rafael.

"Are you in the apartment?" she asked.

"Yes, I'm here," he said. "Don't worry. I have food in the refrigerator." Rafael didn't understand why his daughter worried so much. His apartment was fine. In the past, he had lived in much worse places, like cars and old trailers. For many years, he had also camped in tents with other migrant farmworkers. When he first started working, he slept in a cardboard box. *That* was a reason to worry! But conditions had improved a lot. And as a respected foreman, he had definitely climbed the ladder in his workplace.

"Are you ready to live with us, *Papi*? We can feed you—and take care of you."



"Yes, in the future," answered Rafael. "I still have work to do."

"But remember what the doctor said. You need eye surgery." Rafael stood up and walked over to the window. He saw the foggy shapes of people walking outside. But he didn't recognize them at all. "Your eyes are getting worse, *Papi*," said Isabel. "Cataracts don't go away."

"I remember," said Rafael. "But I don't have time for that right now. I'm much too busy."

Answer the questions.

1. What did Rafael walk into? Where did he sit down?
2. When did the telephone ring? Who was it?
3. How old was Isabel? Where did she live?
4. What did Rafael have in the refrigerator?
5. How was his apartment?
6. Where had he lived in the past?
7. Where had he camped for many years?
8. Where did he sleep when he first started working?
9. What were conditions like now?
10. What had he definitely climbed in his workplace?
11. What did Rafael see outside?
12. What vision problem doesn't go away?

Complete the story.

apartment	cardboard box	conditions	daughter
foreman	ladder	places	schedule
sofa	tents	trailers	workplace

Rafael walked into his _____¹ and sat down on the _____². It had been a long day and he was very tired. Right on _____³, the phone rang. It was Isabel, his _____⁴. Isabel was thirty-two years old. She lived in Rafael's house in Salinas with her husband and two children. "Papi," said Isabel, "I'm just checking in. Are you okay?" Rafael didn't understand why his daughter worried so much. His apartment was fine. In the past, he had lived in much worse _____⁵, like cars and old _____⁶. For many years, he had also camped in _____⁷ with other migrant farmworkers. When he first started working, he slept in a _____⁸. *That* was a reason to worry! But _____⁹ had improved a lot. And as a respected _____¹⁰, he had definitely climbed the _____¹¹ in his _____¹².

Meanings

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

- As a respected foreman, he had definitely climbed the ladder in his workplace.
a. exhausted b. admired
- He saw the foggy shapes of people walking outside.
a. not clear b. dark
- "Your eyes are getting worse, Papi," said Isabel.
a. improving b. not getting better

A Telephone Conversation in the Apartment

Practice the dialog with a partner.



- A. I'm just checking in. Are you okay?
B. Of course I'm okay.
A. Are you in the apartment?
B. Yes, I'm here. Don't worry. And I have food in the refrigerator.
A. Are you ready to live with us, *Papi*? We can feed you—and take care of you.
B. Yes, in the future. I still have work to do.
A. But remember what the doctor said. You need eye surgery. Your eyes are getting worse. Cataracts don't go away.
B. I remember. But I don't have time for that right now. I'm much too busy.

Check the good ideas.

You have a health problem that is getting worse. Check (✓) the things that are good to do. Write other ideas on the lines below.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Talk about it with family members. | <input type="checkbox"/> Think about it later. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See the doctor regularly. | <input type="checkbox"/> Report your problem at work. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Move in with a family member. | <input type="checkbox"/> Tell people to stop worrying. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ignore people who give you advice. | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain health insurance. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Have surgery immediately. | <input type="checkbox"/> Pretend the problem doesn't exist. |
- _____
- _____

Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing words.

1. Rafael walked into his _____ and sat down on the sofa.
2. Right on _____, the phone rang. It was Isabel, his _____.
3. Rafael _____ why his daughter worried so much.
4. In the _____, he had lived in much worse places, like _____ and old trailers.
5. He had also camped in tents with other _____.
6. When he first started _____, he slept in a cardboard box.
7. But _____ had _____ a lot.
8. And as a respected foreman, he had definitely climbed the _____ in his _____.
9. "But remember what the _____ said. You need eye _____."
10. "Your _____ are getting worse. _____ don't go away."

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. climbed	_____	_____	_____	6. started	_____	_____	_____
2. checked	_____	_____	_____	7. worried	_____	_____	_____
3. remembered	_____	_____	_____	8. asked	_____	_____	_____
4. lived	_____	_____	_____	9. answered	_____	_____	_____
5. camped	_____	_____	_____	10. recognized	_____	_____	_____

What about you?

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

Yes **No** 1. I often receive phone calls right on schedule.

Yes **No** 2. I sometimes check in with my family and friends.

Yes **No** 3. I sometimes worry about people in my life.

Yes **No** 4. I sometimes camp in a tent.

Yes **No** 5. I think conditions for farmworkers are better these days.

Yes **No** 6. I think it's possible to climb the ladder in my workplace.

Yes **No** 7. I feed and take care of people in my family.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. What are some reasons why people worry about their family members or friends?
What things can they do to help?
2. What kinds of homes do people usually live in? Is the place you live in now better or worse than the home you had before?
3. How is it possible to climb the ladder in the workplace? What things do workers need to do to advance?