

Fill in the gaps with the most appropriate narrative tenses of the verbs in brackets: past simple, past continuous, past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

Many years ago, I **1** (travel) along Central America with a friend. We **2** (travel) across Honduras for a couple of days when we **3** (arrive) at the border with Nicaragua. When we **4** (show) our passports to the border officers, they **5** (tell) us that in order to cross the border we had to pay some money; it wasn't much, maybe a couple of dollars.

"What?" I said. I couldn't believe it. We didn't have any money, because we **6** (see) any banks in the few villages we **7** (visit) along the way. We had a credit card, but it was Sunday and the banks were closed, so we couldn't take out any money in the nearby villages. We **8** (beg) the officers to let us cross, but they just wanted to get their four dollars and they didn't care if we had to stay there the whole weekend.

We **9** (stand) there, next to the officers, when an old man dressed in very old and dirty clothes **10** (say), "I'll pay the taxes for these two young men." We were amazed. That man looked very poor, the kind of person for whom 4 dollars could be a big deal. "We don't know how to thank you," I said. And he replied, "A la mano que da, nunca le falta de nada", which means something like 'A giving hand never goes empty'.