



CAT IN THE RAIN

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a) Put the verbs in brackets in Simple Past.

There (be) only two Americans stopping at the hotel. They (not know) any of the people they (pass) on the stairs on their way to and from their room. Their room (be) on the second floor facing the sea. It also (face) the public garden and the war monument. There (be) big palms and green benches in the public garden. In the good weather there (be) always an artist with his easel. Artists (like) the way the palms (grow) and the bright colors of the hotels facing the gardens and the sea. Italians came from a long way off to look up at the war monument. It (be) made of bronze and glistened in the rain. It **was raining**.

The rain (drip) from the palm trees. Water (stand) in pools on the gravel paths. The sea (break) in a long line in the rain and (slip) back down the beach to come up and break again in a long line in the rain. The motor cars were gone from the square by the war monument. Across the square in the doorway of the café a waiter stood looking out of the empty square. The American wife (stand) at the window looking out. Outside right under their window a cat was crouched under one of the dripping green tables. The cat **was trying** to make herself so compact that she would not be dripped on.

"I'm. going down and get that kitty," the American wife (say).

"I'll do it," her husband (offer) from the bed.

"No, I'll get it. The poor kitty out trying to keep dry under a table."

The husband (go) on reading, lying propped up with the two pillows at the foot of the bed.

"Don't get wet," he (say).

b) Look at the underlined phrases in the text and complete the chart.

I / He / She / It	-ing
We / You / They	were	-ing

The **past continuous** (also called *past progressive*) is a verb tense which is used to show that a past action was happening at a specific moment of interruption, or that two ongoing actions were happening at the same time.

c) Answer: What do you think happened next? Could the woman rescue the cat? If so, did the hotel-keeper let her enter the hotel room with the cat?

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d) Read and check your guesses.

The wife went downstairs and the hotel owner stood up and bowed to her as she passed the office. His desk was at the far end of the office. He was an old man and very tall.

"Il piove," the wife said. She liked the hotel-keeper.

"Sì, sì, Signora, brutto tempo. It is very bad weather."

He stood behind his desk in the far end of the dim room. The wife liked him. She liked the deadly serious way he received any complaints. She liked the way he wanted to serve her. She liked the way he felt about being a hotel-keeper. She liked his old, heavy face and big hands.

Liking him she opened the door and looked out. It was raining harder. A man in a rubber cape was crossing the empty square to the café. The cat would be around to the right. Perhaps she could go along under the eaves. As she stood in the door-way an umbrella opened behind her. It was the maid who looked after their room.

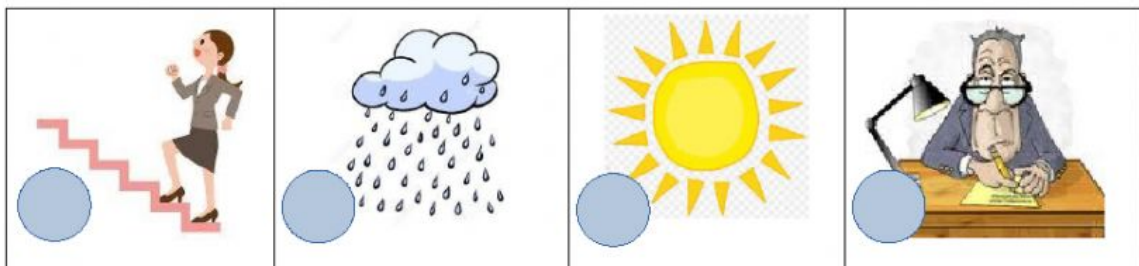
Repetition is when words or phrases are repeated in a literary work. ... Repetition is also often used in speech, as a rhetorical device to bring attention to an idea

e) Answer: Can you find any examples of repetition in the previous text?

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.....

f) Choose the pictures that illustrate this part of the story.



g) Read this part of the story and answer the questions below:

"You must not get wet," she smiled, speaking Italian. Of course, the hotel-keeper had sent her.

With the maid holding the umbrella over her, she walked along the gravel path until she was under their window. The table was there, washed bright green in the rain, but the cat was gone. She was suddenly disappointed. The maid looked up at her.

"Ha perduto qualche cosa, Signora?"

"There was a cat," said the American girl.

"A cat?"

"Sì, il gatto."

"A cat?" the maid laughed. "A cat in the rain?"

"Yes," she said, "under the table." Then, "Oh, I wanted it so much. I wanted a kitty."

When she talked English the maid's face tightened.

"Come, Signora," she said. "We must get back inside. You will be wet."

"I suppose so", said the American girl.

They went back along the gravel path and passed in the door. The maid stayed outside to close the umbrella. As the American girl passed the office, the padrone bowed from his desk. Something felt very small and tight inside the girl. The padrone made her feel very small and at the same time really important. She had a momentary feeling of being of supreme importance.

1) Why did the maid go out in the rain?

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2) Why did the maid laugh at the American girl? Was she disrespectful?

.....

3) Why did the maid's face tighten when the "Signora" talked English?

.....

4) How did the American girl feel when she was returning to the hotel?

.....

5) How did she feel as she passed the reception?

.....

About you:

1) How do you feel when you want something very much but you can't get it or you can't afford it?

.....

h) Go on reading and pay attention to George and the American girl's relationship and answer the questions below.

She went on up the stairs. She opened the door of the room. George was on the bed, reading.

"Did you get the cat?" he asked, putting the book down.

"It was gone."

"Wonder where it went to," he said, resting his eyes from reading.

She sat down on the bed.

"I wanted it so much," she said. "I don't know why I wanted it so much. I wanted that poor kitty. It isn't any fun to be a poor kitty out in the rain."

George was reading again.

She went over and sat in front of the mirror of the dressing table looking at herself with the hand glass. She studied her profile, first one side and then the other. Then she studied the back of her head and her neck.

"Don't you think it would be a good idea if I let my hair grow out?" she asked, looking at her profile again.

George looked up and saw the back of her neck, clipped close like a boy's.

"I like it the way it is."

"I get so tired of it," she said. "I get so tired of looking like a boy."

George shifted his position in the bed. He hadn't looked away from her since she started to speak.

"You look pretty darn nice," he said.

She laid the mirror down on the dresser and went over to the window and looked out. It was getting dark.

"I want to pull my hair back tight and smooth and make a big knot at the back that I can feel," she said. "I want to have a kitty to sit on my lap and purr when I stroke her."

"Yeah?" George said from the bed.

"And I want to eat at a table with my own silver and I want candles. And I want it to be spring and I want to brush my hair out in front of a mirror and I want a kitty and I want some new clothes."

"Oh, shut up and get something to read," George said. He was reading again. His wife was looking out of the window. It was quite dark now and still raining in the palm trees.

"Anyway, I want a cat," she said, "I want a cat. I want a cat now. If I can't have long hair or any fun, I can have a cat."

George was not listening. He was reading his book. His wife looked out of the window where the light had come on in the square.

Someone knocked at the door.

"Avanti," George said. He looked up from his book.

In the doorway stood the maid. She held a big tortoise-shell cat pressed tight against her and swung down against her body.

"Excuse me," she said, "the padrone asked me to bring this for the Signora."

- 1) What can you say about George's personality?
- 2) What do you think the girl is like?
- 3) What's your opinion: Do they get on well? Why or Why not?
.....
- 4) What is the kitten like?
- 5) How do you think the girl feels at the end ?

i) Choose the kitten the American girl adopted.



j) Draw or paste a photo of the pet you would like to adopt:

