

Read and complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use **PRESENT SIMPLE**, **PRESENT CONTINUOUS**, **PAST SIMPLE** or **PAST CONTINUOUS**.

Dear Margaret,

How are you? Sorry I ¹ _____ (NOT WRITE) yesterday, but it was a very busy day.

I ² _____ (ARRIVE) at Castringham Hall at a quarter past five. I ³ _____ (BE) very happy when I saw the house because it was freezing cold inside the carriage and the horses ⁴ _____ (BE) quite tired. I ⁵ _____ (LEAVE) my luggage in my bedroom, had breakfast in the dining room and went to see the village church. I ⁶ _____ (NOT GO) alone; the architect of the village went with me. However, when we ⁷ _____ (EXPLORE) the land next to the church, we ⁸ _____ (FIND) some graves there. So, I don't think we will be able to make the church bigger.

Anyway, we continued exploring the place. While we ⁹ _____ (WALK) around the graves, the architect ¹⁰ _____ (TELL) me scary stories related to the dead people who were buried there. Most of them ¹¹ _____ (BE) criminals and witches. Suddenly, we ¹² _____ (SEE) the grave of a very famous witch that lived here many years ago. We decided to unbury the coffin. While we ¹³ _____ (BRING) it out of the ground, a lot of villagers ¹⁴ _____ (COME) to see the witch's bones. They said she was a dangerous woman, but I ¹⁵ _____ (NOT BE) scared at all. However, when we ¹⁶ _____ (TAKE) the top off and looked inside, it was completely empty. Can you believe it? The dead body had disappeared. All of a sudden, I ¹⁷ _____ (FEEL) terrified!

As you can imagine, I ¹⁸ _____ (CANNOT) sleep well last night. Besides, my bedroom was too noisy and there ¹⁹ _____ (BE) a strong smell of smoke coming out from the fireplace. That's why I decided to change rooms. I ²⁰ _____ (WRITE) from my new one now. It is my grandfather's bedroom, Sir Matthew. There is a big window and I ²¹ _____ (SIT) at a desk in front of it. It ²² _____ (NOT BE) a dark room; it's very bright and I can see a beautiful old ash tree outside.

Mrs. Chiddock is the housekeeper. She is a nice woman and she ²³ _____ (TIDY) the whole house up alone. She gets up at five and ²⁴ _____ (PREPARE) breakfast. Then, she ²⁵ _____ (WASH) the dishes and cups and ²⁶ _____ (MAKE) lunch. She ²⁷ _____ (NOT HAVE) time to have a nap. She ²⁸ _____ (DO) the shopping in the afternoon and ²⁹ _____ (HAVE) a shower before dinner. She ³⁰ _____ (NOT LIKE) listening to the radio. She prefers reading. Now, she ³¹ _____ (CUT) some flowers in the garden. She ³² _____ (WATER) some plants, too.

Well, the bell ³³ _____ (RING). I don't know who may be.

Write back soon. Love,

Richard.

