

The Cabin in the Forest



Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the past simple or the past continuous to complete the story.

One fine day, not long ago, an old man _____ (walk) in the forest. Just as it _____ (get dark), he found himself in an unfamiliar part of the forest. He _____ (walk) for hours, but he couldn't find his way home.

Eventually, he _____ (arrive) at a small old cabin. He _____ (feel) very tired, so he _____ (decide) to stay there for the night.

When he _____ (get) closer to the cabin, he _____ (see) that the door was open. Putting his head inside, he could see that the little cabin _____ (be) completely empty, but there was a bed that _____ (look) comfortable, and a fire _____ (burn) in the fireplace. The hunter fell onto the bed and decided to sleep there for the night.

When he _____ (lie) on the bed, half-asleep, he _____ (look) around and was surprised to see that the walls were covered with paintings. They seemed to be family portraits, all framed and painted in incredible detail. They seemed very realistic, and were all extremely ugly. They _____ (make) him feel extremely uncomfortable - it seem that they _____ (stare) straight at him. So he turned on his side so that he _____ (face) the wall, _____ (pull) the blanket over his head and _____ (go) to sleep.

When the hunter _____ (wake up) in the morning, the forest birds _____ (sing) and the morning light _____ (come) in through the windows. Then, as he _____ (look) at the cabin in the bright light, he _____ (discover) something strange: there _____ (be) no family portraits on the walls of the cabin... only windows.



Reminder!

The past continuous tense is used:

- A. To give background in a story:
 - The sun **was shining** and I **was feeling happy**.
- B. When talking about TWO actions in the past:
 - While I **was talking** on the phone, someone **stole** my car.
- C. To talk about TWO actions in the past, both happening over a period, not in sequence.
 - I **was working** on my computer and my children **were watching** television.
- D. To talk about a TEMPORARY activity taking place over a limited time.
 - I **was living** in Brighton when it **happened**.
 - (NOT I ~~was~~ living in Brighton when I ~~was~~ a child.)