



The Marie Celeste

1 Read the story about the Marie Celeste and fill in the gaps with *was* or *were*.

The Marie Celeste (1) _____ a ship. On 5 December 1872, the Marie Celeste (2) _____ in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. There (3) _____ something strange about this ship, so the captain of another ship, the Dei Gratia, stopped his ship and went on board the Marie Celeste with another man. They (4) _____ surprised because there (5) _____ no people on the ship at all. It (6) _____ completely empty.

There (7) _____ a lot of food on the ship. And in the kitchen, there (8) _____ saucepans of food, half cooked – but the fire (9) _____ out. In the captain's room, there (10) _____ some half-finished breakfast on the table: there (11) _____ an egg and an open bottle of medicine. Everything (12) _____ in its place. The men (13) _____ not there, but all of their clothes and things (14) _____ there. Did the men jump off the ship? But why?

The captain of the Dei Gratia looked at the book on the table. The last date in it (15) _____ 25 November. Did the men leave after that day? (16) _____ the Marie Celeste in the Atlantic without men for ten days? People wanted to know. So, they looked for information and found that it (17) _____ an American ship. It left New York with ten people on it: Captain Briggs, seven crewmen, the captain's wife and young daughter. No one saw them again and no one knows what happened to them.

2 Here is a picture of the Marie Celeste when the captain of the Dei Gratia went aboard. Circle the wrong things in the picture. Why are they wrong?

