

**Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now.**

**Holding the Bag --Chapter 14: More Surprises**

The next day, Negasi's story appears in the newspaper. Then it appears on the TV news. Everyone is talking about the taxi driver who returned \$5,000 to the police. Negasi is embarrassed by the attention. But he feels proud, too.

The next week is very exciting for Negasi and his family. The owner of the jewelry store invites Negasi to her store and shakes his hand. She insists that Negasi accept a \$500 reward and a beautiful gold necklace for Ana. People all over the country send nice letters to Negasi. Some of them include a gift card at a store. Desta's doctor leaves a message saying, "Negasi, you are a hero. Desta's new glasses are free." Even Negasi's landlord calls. He tells Negasi there is a bigger apartment available. He will rent it to Negasi and the family for the same price as their old apartment. Negasi and Ana are very happy. They will have more space for the new baby.

Soon life returns to normal again. People are talking about other things. They talk about the election and the economy and the weather. Negasi gets back to working for ten hours a day, seven days a week. A month later, a letter comes to Negasi. He opens it and reads,

*Dear Negasi,*

*I read about you in the newspaper a few weeks ago. Your story touched my heart. I was an immigrant to this country many years ago. I understand how hard it is to work and support your family. I know that your life isn't easy. It took many years before I was successful. I always worried about the relatives left behind in my country. Here is a check for \$5,000. Please use it for your wife and children and your relatives in Ethiopia.*

*Sincerely,*

*Emilio Rodrigo*

Negasi puts the letter back into the envelope. He holds the check. He shows Ana the letter and the check. Ana has tears in her eyes. "I can't believe this!" says Ana. "We are very lucky." Desta runs into the room. "Dad, I have really bad news," says Desta. Negasi says, "There is no bad news right now!" Desta says, "But Daddy, Dawit stepped on my glasses again! They are broken!"

1. How does Negasi feel about all the attention?
2. What does the jewelry store owner do for the Negasi's family?
3. People wrote nice letters. Some of them include a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What does Desta's doctor say in his message?
5. What does Negasi's landlord do for the family?
6. Life returns to normal. What are people talking about?
7. What does Negasi's letter say?
8. How much money is in the letter?
9. What is Desta's bad news?

Last week, we used the word "rough" in a sentence. Rough is a word with multiple meanings.

(1) Rough can mean an uneven surface. EX: This road is not paved. It is rocky and has holes. It is very **rough**.

- (2) Rough can mean not exact. EX: Give me a **rough idea** of when you will arrive.
- (3) Roughly is an estimate. EX: The house is **roughly** four miles from the university.
- (4) Rough can mean forceful and violent. EX: I play hockey. It is a **rough** game. Sometimes I get hit by a hockey stick. Sometimes I get hit by other players.
- (5) Rough can mean filled with difficulties. EX: My wife and I are having a **rough time** right now. We don't make much money. We have a lot of bills. It is stressful. EX: I had a **rough day** at work. I had to fire someone.
- (6) If you are on the sea when the wind is blowing and the waves are high, you are in **rough seas**.
- (7) Rough can mean not gentle or kind. EX: Her father is very **rough** on her. He insists she come home by 10 PM. If she doesn't, he punishes her. EX: The boy had a **rough childhood**. His parents died when he was young. He lived in foster care. He didn't have loving parents to care for him.

Another word we learned last week was "tough". Rough and tough rhyme.

- (1) Tough can mean a difficult situation. EX: Being a fireman is **tough**. You have to go into burning buildings to rescue people. EX: Choosing the right school for the children is a **tough decision**.
- (2) A tough person is very strong. EX: Ukraine is experiencing **tough times**. But the Ukrainian people are **tough**. They are fighting back.
- (3) Tough can mean very strict. EX: Austin has **tough anti-smoking laws**. You cannot smoke inside most buildings.
- (4) Tough material is not easily broken. EX: His overalls are made of **tough fabric**. They are good for working around machines.
- (5) Tough meat is difficult to chew. EX: This steak tastes good, but it is very **tough**. I like steak that is tender.
- (6) You say, **tough luck**, when you don't sympathize with someone's problems.  
Bet: I'm freezing.  
Jim: Tough luck! I told you to bring a coat!
- (7) If you **toughen up**, you get tougher. EX: Two years in the Army have toughened her up. She is very strong now. She can survive anything!

**Read, then explain each paragraph in your own words. Answer the questions.**

1-An American football coach told his players, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." What do you think he meant?

2-Jon and Mary's twenty year old son was doing drugs. They did not approve of that. They told their son he would have to move out if he kept doing drugs. They were using "tough love". What do you think tough love means? Do you think Jon and Mary did the right thing?

3-Jody and his wife were worried about their son. He was a sweet and sensitive boy. But he was not very tough. Jody worried the other boys would tease him and rough him up. He

wanted his son to toughen up. He put him in a boxing class where he would learn to fight. Do you think this is a good thing? Do you worry your kids aren't tough enough?

4-Janet loved to run. She ran for her school track team. She did well in the races, but she never won a race. Her coach said, "Janet, you need to have mental toughness. You have to decide you will win that race no matter what it takes. You will never slow down. You will never quit trying. Winners are those who are mentally tough." Do you agree with the coach? Are you mentally tough?

5-Martin Luther King said, "We must combine the toughness of the serpent with the softness of the dove, a tough mind and a tender heart." What does he mean? Is it possible to be tough and tender at the same time. Do you think boys are tougher than girls or the opposite?

### **Verb Tenses-----Past Perfect Continuous Tense: had + been + ing verb.**

EX: It **was not raining** when I **looked** out the window. But it **had been raining** before because the streets were wet.

**Was not raining** is past continuous. **Looked** is past tense. **Had been raining** is past perfect continuous.

- a. My wife wanted to go out last night. But I was too tired. I **had been working** for twelve hours without a break. I just wanted to go to bed.
- b. After my teacher emailed me, I realized I **had been studying** the wrong chapter in the book.
- c. The boys came in the house and asked for something to eat. They **had been playing** soccer all afternoon. They were hungry.
- d. I woke up in the middle of the night. I was scared. I **had been dreaming** about ghosts.
- e. I **had been driving** trucks since I was 15, so I thought I was a great driver.
- f. The teacher **had been reading** to the class, when the principal came in and said everyone should go outside.

We don't use the past perfect continuous tense with the verb **know**. We don't say, "I had been knowing him for ten years." Use past or past perfect. I had known him for ten years.

We don't use the past perfect continuous tense with the verb **like**. We don't say, "I had been liking him." Use past or past perfect. I had liked him.

**Verb Tense Quiz:** Circle all the sentences that are correct. If the sentence is incorrect, change the verb tense to make it correct. Teachers, talk to the students about all the different tenses that will work in the sentences.

1. Sally wins the tennis trophy every year.
2. She wins it last year.
3. She is winning it the year before last.
4. In fact, she is winning it every year for ten years.
5. Sally has been winning trophies since she was five.
6. Kat is waiting when I arrived.
7. Kat says, "I have been waited a long time. Where have you been?"
8. She has always waiting for me.
9. The girls have brushing their teeth.

10. My dad had smoking in the garage.
11. She had not being to a hospital before.
12. Have they been playing by the rules?
13. I have had a headache for two days.
14. I have been had a lot of headaches lately.
15. What have you done?

**Read these conversations.**

**Teacher:** Jack finished his test on time today.

**Parent:** I can't believe it! Jack never finishes his test on time.

Why is Jack's parent surprised?

**Tammy:** Let's leave now.

**Carol:** We can't leave yet. We have to wait. Jack is finishing his test.

**Tammy:** He only has five more minutes. Do you think he will finish on time?

**Carol:** Look he has finished the test. He is turning it in now.

**Tammy:** Good! Now can we leave?

- a. Why can't they leave now?
- b. How long does Jack have to finish his test?
- c. Did Jack finish in time?