

An adventure story

Read the story, then do the exercises to practise writing in English.

Preparation

Match the definitions (a-j) with the vocabulary (1-10).

Vocabulary

1. c an explorer
2. twisting
3. to snap
4. a growl
5. to creep
6. a jaguar
7. to freeze
8. to beat
9. to whisper
10. a cabin

Definition

- a. having a lot of turns or changes of direction
- b. to move slowly, quietly and carefully, so that nobody notices you
- c. ~~someone who goes to places where no one has ever been, to find out what is there~~
- d. to speak very quietly, so that only the person next to you can hear
- e. a small, simple house made of wood
- f. to break suddenly, making a sharp sound
- g. a low, angry noise that dogs or other animals make
- h. to stop suddenly and not move, especially because you are frightened
- i. a large wild animal of the cat family that lives in Central and South America
- j. to make a regular sound or movement

Reading text

Last summer, my brother, Juan, and I were staying at our grandfather's house in Mexico. When he was young, our grandfather was an explorer. One day, we were looking at his old books and we found a crumpled map hidden between the pages of a book called *Animals of Mexico*. On the map there were directions to a secret place, deep in the forest.

Juan wanted to follow the map. 'Perhaps we'll find some treasure!' he said excitedly.

We set off early the next morning. The twisting path marked on the map took us deeper and deeper into the forest. The tall trees blocked the sunlight, so it was very dark. The forest was surprisingly noisy – birds screeched and screamed, insects hummed, twigs and branches snapped under our feet. Suddenly, we heard a fierce growl.

Out of the shadows crept a huge, wild, spotted cat.

'It's a jaguar,' I whispered as quietly as I could.

Juan froze with fear. My heart was beating really fast, but I calmly looked the jaguar straight in the eyes and tried not to show how terrified I was.

'Back away, slowly,' I whispered to Juan.

We walked backwards, very, very slowly. The jaguar took one last look at us, then turned and disappeared back into the darkness.

Juan's hands were shaking as he looked again at the map.

'We're here!' he said. 'This is Grandpa's secret place.'

As we turned around, we saw a small, wooden cabin.

We nervously opened the door and went inside. On the walls, there were photos of beautiful jaguars, like the one we had seen.

Still trembling with fear after our adventure, we began to realise that we had in fact found a treasure – a place where jaguars live in the wild.

Top tips

1. Give your characters a reason to set out on an adventure: *We found an old map, We wanted to look for treasure.*
2. Describe the scene for the story. Say what you hear, as well as what you see: *birds screeched, twigs snapped.*
3. Include danger and excitement for your characters: *Suddenly we heard a fierce growl.*
4. Use interesting words to describe how the characters feel: *Juan froze with fear, my heart was beating fast.*
5. Use adjectives and adverbs: *a twisting path, a fierce growl, excitedly, nervously.*

Tasks

Task 1

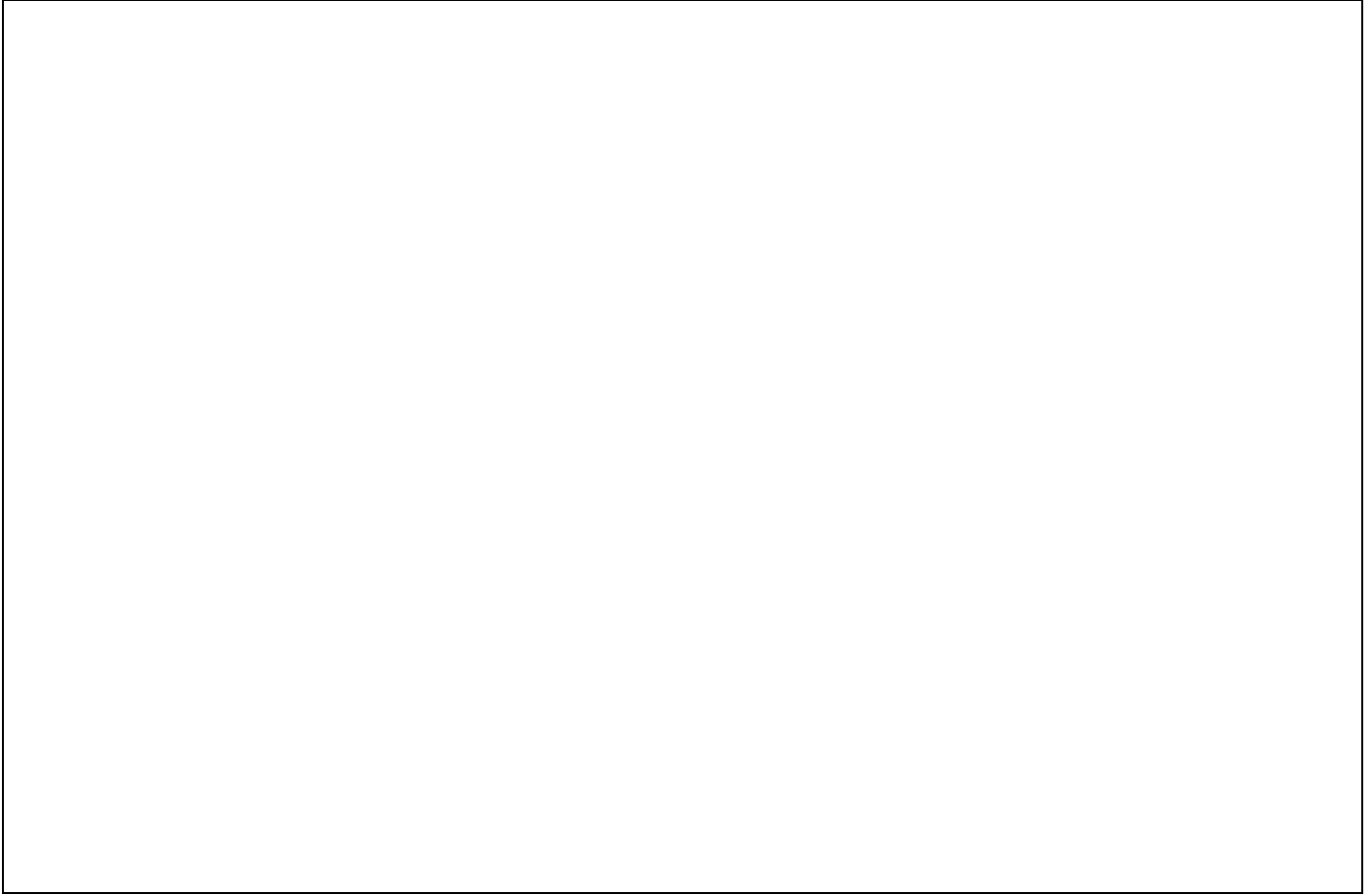
Complete the sentences with words from the box.

twisting	whispered	snapped	beating
suddenly	crept	froze	disappeared

1. The twisting path took us deeper and deeper into the forest.
2. Twigs and branches under our feet.
3. Then,, we heard a fierce growl.
4. Out of the shadows a huge, wild, spotted cat.
5. Juan with fear.
6. My heart was really fast.
7. 'Back away slowly,' I
8. The jaguar back into the darkness.

Write and draw

Invent your own adventure story! Who are the characters? Why do they set off on an adventure? What happens? Write about it and draw a picture!



Answers

Preparation task

1. c
2. a
3. f
4. g
5. b
6. i
7. h
8. j
9. d
10. e

Task 1

1. twisting
2. snapped
3. suddenly
4. crept
5. froze
6. beating
7. whispered
8. disappeared