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# Akron House Mystery

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The text is recorded in full.

n. track

end



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.

## CHAPTER ONE

# The Big Trip

The alarm clock<sup>1</sup> rang at seven o'clock in the morning and Carol and Steve woke up and jumped out of bed. They had to catch a plane. They looked outside their bedroom window and it was a sunny day in beautiful San Francisco, California.

Carol is a pretty girl of fourteen, with long brown hair and big blue eyes. She likes school and wants to be a journalist. She also plays volleyball on the school team. Her brother Steve is a tall boy of fifteen, with blond hair and blue eyes. His favorite subject is science and he wants to be a scientist. He is one of the best players on the school basketball team.

“Well, today is the big day!” said Carol excitedly. “We’re leaving San Francisco and we’re flying to Springfield, Illinois!”



track 02

1. alarm clock :



“I’m not very happy about leaving my friends and my school here in San Francisco,” said Steve, looking at the poster of his high school basketball team.

“Oh, come on, Steve,” said Carol, “we’ll make new friends in Springfield and you can always email your old friends. It’ll be an adventure for us!”

“I hope you’re right,” replied Steve sadly. “I’m going to miss <sup>2</sup> San Francisco.”

“Breakfast is ready!” said a voice from the kitchen. It was their mom, Janet Taylor. “Hurry up, or we’ll miss the plane!”

Their dad, Richard Taylor, was an important writer and photographer, and worked for a big publishing company. He had to go to Springfield to do research <sup>3</sup> and write a book about Abraham Lincoln. Mrs Taylor often helped her husband with his work. They planned to stay in Springfield for about two years.

The Taylor family got to San Francisco International Airport on time and arrived in Springfield on a windy autumn evening. The next day they went to the Bennett Real Estate Agency <sup>4</sup> and started looking for a house to rent.

“Hello, my name’s Richard Taylor, and I’m looking for a big house to rent in Springfield.”

“Pleased to meet you, Mr Taylor,” said a tall African-American man with glasses. “I’m Bob Bennett and I can help you find the right house. What kind of house do you need?”

“We’re a family of four people,” said Mr Taylor. “I’m a writer

2. **going to miss:** (here) feel sorry or unhappy because you’re leaving a place.
3. **do research :** get new facts about a subject.
4. **real estate agency :** an office that rents and sells houses or apartments to people.



## 1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Are these sentences “Right” (A) or “Wrong” (B)? If there is not enough information to answer “Right” (A) or “Wrong” (B), choose “Doesn’t say” (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Mrs Taylor woke up Carol and Steve at seven o’clock in the morning.  
A Right       B Wrong      C Doesn’t say
- 1 Carol and Steve are teenagers.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn’t say
- 2 Steve plays volleyball on the high school volleyball team.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn’t say
- 3 Mr Richard Taylor is a forty-year-old man.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn’t say
- 4 Mr Taylor wants to buy a big house in Springfield.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn’t say
- 5 Akron House was a hospital during the American Civil War.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn’t say
- 6 Akron House has three floors and a garden all around it.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn’t say
- 7 A New York City family lived in Akron House before.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn’t say
- 8 The address of Akron House is 150 Clark Street.  
A Right      B Wrong      C Doesn’t say

## “MR TAYLOR DECIDED TO RENT THE HOUSE AND THANKED MR BENNETT FOR HIS HELP.”

We form the Past Simple of regular verbs by adding **-ed** to the verb.

e.g. talk = talked, work = worked

Some verbs end in a **consonant + -y**. We remove the ‘y’ and add **-ied**.

e.g. carry = carried, study = studied

But if verbs end in a **vowel + -y**, the **-y** does not change.

e.g. enjoy = enjoyed, stay = stayed

## 2 PAST SIMPLE – REGULAR VERBS

Complete the sentences with verbs from the box using the Past Simple.

study    hurry    laugh    play  
worry    marry    work    want

- 1 Richard Taylor ..... for an important publishing company in San Francisco.
- 2 Carol and Steve were late and they ..... downstairs to have breakfast.
- 3 Steve ..... all afternoon because he had a big test the next day.
- 4 The students ..... because the movie was funny.
- 5 Carol ..... volleyball on the school team.
- 6 The Taylor family ..... a big house with a garden.
- 7 Richard Taylor ..... Janet eighteen years ago.
- 8 Steve ..... about the trip to Springfield because he didn't want to leave San Francisco.

## 3 A CROSSWORD

Unscramble the verbs and put them in the crossword in the Past Simple form.

### Across

- 2 rty
- 4 olko
- 6 npeo

### Down

- 1 ycr
- 3 ocyp
- 5 eicedd

