**Maintaining Proper Tense When Writing a Narrative: News Story**

*Fill the gaps with a suitable tense form of the verb in brackets.*



In Nigeria, a three-year-old British girl \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (reunite) with her parents after being freed by kidnappers in southern Nigeria who\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (hold) her for four days. Margaret Hill's parents, Mike and Oluchi Hill, said she was in good health but "covered in mosquito bites".

The kidnappers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (threaten) to kill the girl unless a ransom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (pay) or Mr. Hill \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (take) her place. Mr Hill, an oil worker, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (say) no ransom \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (pay). He told Sky News that his daughter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (return) "in a little bit of a trance", but soon began coming back to life and talking to her mother. The child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (hold) "in the bush... in some sort of hut", he said. "I don't think she had much to eat because she is hungry now."

Margaret \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (snatch) on Thursday morning when gunmen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (smash) the window of a car driving her to school in Port Harcourt as it stood in traffic. The car's driver \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (stab) as he tried to protect the girl.

Her Nigerian mother, Oluchi Hill, later \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (say) the abductors \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (contact) her and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (demand) an unspecified ransom for Margaret's release. The kidnappers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (vow) to kill the girl unless her father, a British expatriate oil worker originally from Murton in County Durham, took her place.

Our correspondent says more than 200 hostages \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (take) by armed groups in the last 18 months in Nigeria, but none has ever been killed.