

## THE CLEVER CRAB

An old heron lived on the bank of a pond. It had become weak as it could not get enough food. It tried to catch the fish in the pond. But all the fish escaped. So it thought of a cunning plan.

One day it called out to all the fish and the crabs in the river. Pulling a long face it said, "Friends, I have some bad news for you all. I overheard some people in the village talking." The fish and crabs got worried. "What did they say?," asked a fish. "They said that they are going to fill this pond with soil. Then they will grow crops here. Won't you all die if it happens?," answered the heron. All the fish and crabs became very sad. Some of them started crying.

The cunning heron continued, "I have thought of a plan to save you all. I will carry a few of you daily with my beak and drop you in the river near the jungle. At my age it is a little difficult for me, but it is alright. I will do it for you all." All the fish and crabs thanked the heron.

Daily the heron would take a few fish to a rock outside the village. It would then kill and eat them. One day a crab asked the heron to take it to the river. The heron was very happy. It asked the crab to climb on its back and started flying. As they reached the rock, the crab could see a lot of bones. It understood the treachery of the heron. It immediately dug its claws into the heron's neck and killed it.

The crab went back to the pond. All the fish and crabs thanked it for saving their lives.

### Exercise

**In the story given above, some parts are underlined in red. Write them in indirect speech.**

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**From the above story pick out ten verbs in past tense. Write their present tense forms too. One is done for you. Students may take a printout of this page.**

<u>past tense</u>	-	<u>present tense</u>	<u>past tense</u>	-	<u>present tense</u>
1. lived	-	_____	6.	_____	_____
2. _____	-	_____	7.	_____	_____
3. _____	-	_____	8.	_____	_____
4. _____	-	_____	9.	_____	_____
5. _____	-	_____	10.	_____	_____

**Pick out five adjectives from the above story. Write their kinds too. One is done for you. Students may take a printout of this page.**

1. Old ( adjective of quality )
2. \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
3. \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )
5. \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ )