

## From Rules to Reasons:

### Why has the writer used these tense forms?

In this scene Amy is being chased by the Kabras. Amy has climbed on top of an old church steeple (tower)

**Work with a partner. Read the text and explain why the writer has used these tenses, rather than other ones.**

Why **past simple**, why **past progressive (-ing form)**?

**Tip: Use your grammar book, part 1 and check if you find a helpful explanation for these tense forms there.**

Finally, Amy was at the peak (=top of the church). An old iron lightning rod pointed into the sky. At its base was a metal ring like a tiny basketball hoop, and below that a grounding wire, just like Franklin had recommended in his early experiments. Amy **lashed (wound, tied) the wire around her wrist**, then **took** out the vial (= glass container) . It was so slippery she almost lost it. Carefully, **she slipped it into the iron ring** — a perfect fit. She **inched back down the roof (=she climbed back down)**. “Please,” she thought, holding on tight to the rungs. She didn’t have to wait long. The hair stood up on the back of her neck. She smelled something like burning aluminum foil, and then, CRACCCCK! **The sky exploded**. Sparks rained down all around her, hissing on the wet tiles.

Dazed, **she lost her balance** and **skittered down the roof**. She **grabbed** frantically and **caught** a rung so hard pain shot up her wrist. But she held on and **began to climb** back to the top. The glass vial was glowing. The green liquid inside was no longer murky and slimy. It seemed to be made of pure green light, trapped in glass. Carefully, Amy touched it. There was no shock. It wasn’t even warm. She **slipped the vial (=glass container) out of its brace** and **put it back** in her pocket. As thou charge this, so I charge thee. The hardest part was still to come. She had to get away safely and figure out what she’d just created.

“Dan! I did it!” **She climbed back** into the bell tower, but **her smile melted**. Dan **was lying** on the floor, bound and gagged. **Standing over him**, in black combat fatigues, was Ian Kabra. “Hello, cousin.” Ian held out a plastic syringe. “I’ll trade you.” “MMMM!” Dan struggled and tried to say something. “MMMM! MMMM!” “Let—let him go!” Amy stammered. She was sure her face was bright red. She hated that she was stuttering again. Why did Ian Kabra turn her tongue to lead? The bronze bell shuddered. **The Holts were still pounding away (=they were hitting the door)** below, trying to get through the trapdoor.

The 39 Clues Book 1: The Maze of Bones (pp. 204-205). Scholastic Inc.. Kindle Edition.

