**Writing stories  
Introduction and tips** (Writing stories)  
 ANSWER THE QUESTION  
 PLAN your story.  
 REVISE your story to correct mistakes.  
 Give your story a title.  
 Make sure you have at least 4 paragraphs.  
 Paragraph 1 – background information.  
 Paragraphs 2 and 3 the main part of the story.  
 Paragraph 4 – EITHER the climax or key moment of the story OR what  
happened after the climax.  
 Don't change the words you are given at all.  
 Read the words you are given carefully. Sometimes you can choose  
whether to start or finish with the words. At other times you have no choice.  
 Use past continuous for background information.  
For example – *It was raining heavily as we left the house….*

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|  | Use past perfect before the main events of the story. *but Anne had kindly lent me her umbrella.* |

 Use simple past for the main events. *There wasn't a single person on the street.* Try to include some direct speech.

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|  | You can use contraction (haven't, couldn't etc). But a story should not be as informal as an email to a friend, for example. |

**Useful phrases** (Writing stories)  
**Time phrases:** *It all began* *Shortly afterwards* *Meanwhile* *Not long afterwards* *Some time later* *Later that day* *A little later* *Finally* *In the end* *Eventually***Phrases for dramatic effect:** *Suddenly* *All of a sudden* *Without warning* *Out of the blue*  
 *Just at that moment* *Quite unexpectedly* *As if from nowhere***Direct speech:** *“I hate you”, said Fred* *“…..”, shouted Fred* *“…..”, screamed Fred* *“…..”, whispered Fred* *“…..”, announced Fred.* *”…..”, thought Fred* *“…..”, cried Fred* *“…..”, promised Fred***Concluding stories:** *When it was all over* *Looking back now* *In retrospect* *In the end* *After all that had happened*

**Writing stories**

1. Your teacher has asked you to write a story for a student magazine.  
The story must **begin** with the following words.

Example:  
It was five o'clock in the morning when there was a knock at the door.

Write your **story in approximately 300 words for** in an appropriate style.