

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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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use past perfect before the main events of the story.
<i>but Anne had kindly lent me her umbrella.</i> |
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- 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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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |
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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.