

STORIES

Stories can be written either in the **first or the third person** and present a **series of events**, **real or imaginary**. The events in the story should be written **in the order in which they happen**. Stories include:

- An **introduction** which **sets the scene** (*describes the time, place, people, activity, weather etc.*)
- **Main body paragraphs** (*describing events leading up to the main event, the main event itself and its climax*).
- A **conclusion** (*describing what happens in the end, people's reactions/ feelings etc.*)

Stories are characterized by:

- **The use of past tenses** (*It was raining when I set out. I put on my raincoat, opened the door and went outside. When I reached the bus stop, I realized I hadn't locked the front door.*)
- **Linking words/phrases** that show **time** and **sequence of events** (*first/at first, then/next, after/before that, during, while, meanwhile, as soon as, as, at the moment, by the time, in the end/finally etc.*)
- **Descriptive adjectives/adverbs** to make the story more interesting (*elegant, pleasant, breathtaking, fast, etc.*)
- **Direct speech** to make the story more dramatic (*"Please help me!" she begged.*)

USEFUL LANGUAGE

Starting a story/Setting the scene

- ...felt (*tired*) as she had been (*working on her computer all morning*)
- It was (*snowing heavily*) when....(*I woke up that day*).

Leading up to the main event

- At first, we didn't notice....
- The (*party*) had only just (*started*) when.....
- The next thing (*Ann*) knew, (*she was...*).

The main event/climax of the story

- They started (*shouting desperately*).
- I felt sure (*the car*) was going to (*crash*).

Describing people/places/feelings

- The young man near the door...
- We walked down the (*narrow*) Street trying to...
- To their (*surprise/disgust/horror etc.*)...'
- Imagine our (*disappointment/despair*) when...

Ending the story

- I've never felt so (*relieved/scared/embarrassed etc.*) in my whole life.
- We knew we would never.... again.
- It was the most (*embarrassing/exciting/amazing/terrifying*) moment I've ever experienced.

PLAN

INTRODUCTION:

(**Para 1**) set the scene (when, where, who)

MAIN BODY:

(**Para 2-3**) events in order they happened-climax event

CONCLUSION:

(**Para 4**) end the story-feelings

A Narrow Escape

Last July, my cousin Harry and I went rock climbing in a famous canyon. The sun was shining brightly and the sky was clear as we loaded our gear into Harry's car early in the morning.

Inside the canyon the walls were amazingly tall and steep. At first, the path was dry but after a while a tiny stream trickled down the middle of it. Harry explained that at this time of year there was rarely any danger of flooding.

Just at that moment, thunder rumbled threateningly. "Don't worry," said Harry, "It's very far away." The next thing we knew, it was pouring with rain. Suddenly, there was a deafening roar. A huge wave of water came crashing down the canyon, sweeping everything in its path.

Immediately, Harry scrambled up the canyon wall with the rope and pulled me up, too. Horrified, we watched as the flash flood raged past us below.

Minutes later, Harry and I climbed to safety. We felt exhausted but lucky to be alive. It was a very narrow escape!