

NARRATIVE TEXTS

A narrative text can be written in the first and third person and describes a series of events, either imaginary or based on your own experience. A good narrative should consist of:

1. an **introduction** in which you describe the background scene and introduce the main character. Try to make interesting introductions in order to catch reader's attention. These are questions that could be answered in the introduction:

When did the story take place? Where were you? What was the weather like? What were you doing or going to do? Who were you with? What was your relationship with the other character?

2. a **main body** consisting of two or more paragraphs in which you develop your story in a logical way. Have a different paragraph for every stage of your story. This will make it easier for the reader to follow it.
3. a **conclusion** in which you describe the outcome of the story, you can refer to people's feelings or you make comments on the story.

TIPS

- You should **never** start writing before you have decided on your plot.
- **Sequence of events** is very important. Use time words such as: at first, before, until, while, during, then, after, finally, etc.
- Use of **various adjectives** (disgusting, exhilarating...) and **adverbs** (fearlessly, surprisingly, etc) to describe feelings and actions, as well as use of direct speech, as variety of **verbs** will make your story more exciting to read.
- Be careful with the **tenses** you choose. You can use **Past Continuous** to set the scene (e.g. it was raining hard and the wind was blowing as Jonathan drove towards the small cottage), **Past Simple** to describe the main events of the story, or **Past Perfect** to give the background of the story (e.g. Jonathan had been planning to visit the old cottage for months before he was able to do so).
- Descriptions of people, places, objects or events and descriptive techniques can be used in a narrative when you want to emphasize specific parts of your narration.
- Use linking words or phrases to join the ideas and make your story flow.

TECHNIQUES TO BEGIN AND END A STORY

A good beginning is as important as a good ending. A good beginning should make your reader want to go on with your story. A good ending will make your reader feel satisfied.

You can start your story by:

- Describing weather, surroundings, people, etc.
- Using direct speech
- Creating mystery and suspense.

EXAMPLES:

ORDINARY BEGINNING

I woke up and got out of bed. I had a shower, ate breakfast and left

MORE INTERESTING BEGINNING

Bright morning sunlight was shining through my bedroom window when I woke. I lay there lazily for a few minutes, then jumped out of bed...

You can end your story by:

- Referring to your feelings or moods.
- Describing people's reactions to the events developed in the main body.
- Creating mystery and suspense.
- Asking a rhetorical question.

SIMPLE ENDING

At last I was home again, and soon went to bed. It had been a tiring day.

MORE INTERESTING ENDING

Exhausted and soaked to the skin, I slammed the front door behind me. I threw myself onto my bed, stared into the darkness and thought bitterly, "why me?"

ENRICH YOUR VOCABULARY

ADJECTIVES

Delightful, enormous, entire, horrible, massive, superb, terrific, horrifying, gigantic, huge, tiny, nasty, disgusting, terrible, wonderful, unpleasant, fabulous...

ADVERBS

Sarcastically, angrily, threateningly, frantically, hurriedly, miserably, confidently, suddenly, urgently, nervously, patiently, calmly...

EXPRESSIONS /PHRASES

It was too good to be true
I couldn't believe my eyes/luck
I was in luck / out of luck
Unluckily / luckily
I breathed a sigh of relief
I was out of relief
My heart was beating furiously
It made me jump
I burst out laughing / into tears

It was a real shock
It was getting on my nerves
It was the best/worst ever
I was in good/ bad mood
I was left speechless
All of a sudden / suddenly
The next thing I knew
To my surprise
Without a doubt / Beyond any doubt

SAMPLE TEXT

I will never forget a date with a guy called David. It all began when a mutual friend of ours, Anne, gave him my telephone number. We planned to meet one evening in the town centre, and I imagined a pleasant date in my favourite café in the centre of town. I was really excited and wore my trendiest clothes. However, everything went wrong from the first moment.

First of all, I arrived very late because I had missed the bus. Then I introduced myself to the wrong person! When I eventually saw David (he was wearing a black jacket as he said he would), I tripped as I approached him and fell at his feet. After that, we went to a café. I couldn't think of anything to say and I felt really stupid. Finally, he made an excuse and left very quickly.

The following day I asked Anne if David had said anything to her. She said that he thought I was very nice. However, he never got in touch with me again.