

NARRATIVE – STORY

Introduction: Set the scene (who, where, when, what)

Main Body: Describe incidents leading up to the main event and the event itself in detail

Conclusion: Refer to moods, consequences, people's reactions, feelings, comments

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- You should never start writing before you have decided on a 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 and adverbs to describe feelings and actions, as well as use of direct speech and a variety of verbs, will make your story more interesting to read.
- You can use Past Continuous to set the scene, Past Simple to describe the main events of the story or Past Perfect to give the background of the story.

TECHNIQUES TO BEGIN OR END A STORY

A good beginning should make your reader want to read your story. A good ending will make your reader feel satisfied.

You can start your story by:

- describing weather, surroundings, people, etc. using the senses
- using direct speech
- asking a rhetorical question
- creating mystery or suspense
- referring to your feelings or moods
- addressing the reader directly

You can end your story by:

- using direct speech
- referring to your feelings or moods
- describing people's reactions to the events developed in the main body
- creating mystery or suspense
- asking a rhetorical question

More than one technique can be used in the beginning or ending of your story.

Avoid using simple adjectives or adverbs (good, bad, nice well, etc). Try to use more sophisticated adjectives or adverbs which will make your story more exciting to read. A variety of verbs (e.g .murmur, whisper, mutter instead of “say”) will make your story more lively.

Use of the senses (sight, smell, touch, hearing, taste) to set the scene or describe people, places, events or objects helps to increase the reader’s interest.

When writing a narrative you can use flashback narration. This means you can start your story at a certain point in time (often a very exciting moment), then go back in time and describe events which happened before this time (usually in Past Perfect), lead the reader up to the specific time, then go on with your story and bring it to a conclusion.