WRITING A STORY

Tips for writing a good story



Plan

Introduction

Para 1: start the story (who, when, where, what)

Main Body

Paeas 2-3: develop the story (events before the main event, the main event itself)

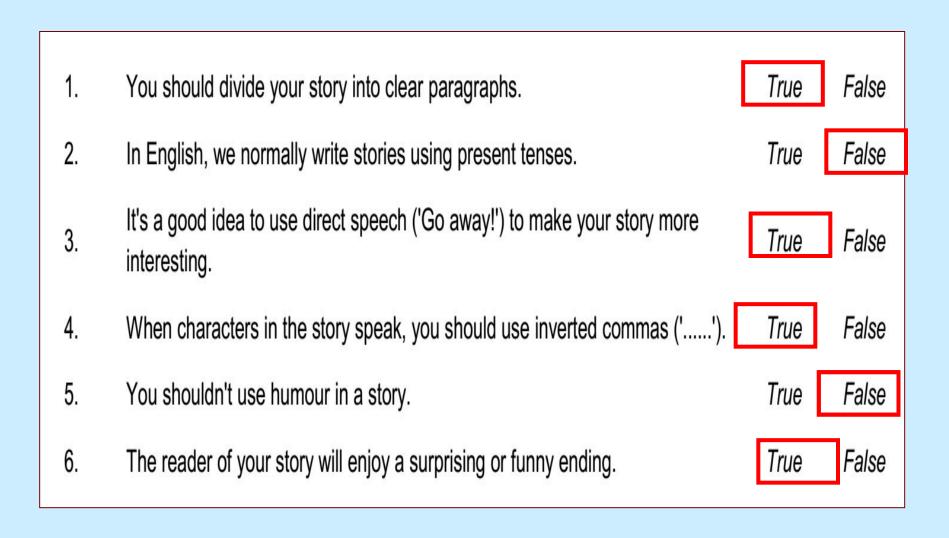
Conclusion:

Para 4: end the story (what happened in the end, how people felt)

Top Tips for writing

- Your story should have a clear beginning, middle and end.
- 2. Use clear paragraphs.
- 3. Use a variety of narrative tenses.
- 4. Use direct speech or indirect speech when the characters talk.

Circle True or False for these sentences.



EXAM QUESTION

Write a story with the title 'The English Exam'. You should use a variety of tenses and your story must be between 180 and 220 words.

The English Exam

Dimitri woke up at 7:00 a.m. He had been chatting with a friend on the computer until nearly midnight the previous night so he was feeling quite tired but also rather nervous because this was the day of an important English exam at school. Dimitri had been studying very hard for this exam for the previous two weeks so he thought he had a good chance of passing it.

While Dimitri was travelling to school on the bus, he remembered that he had forgotten to take his wallet with him so he didn't have any money to buy lunch. Just after this, his friend Lucas got on the bus.

'Can I borrow some money, Lucas?' asked Dimitri.
'Sure, no problem,' replied Lucas. 'Here you go.'

The two boys did the English exam. While they were having lunch, Dimitri asked Lucas if he thought the exam had been difficult. Lucas smiled and picked up the slice of chocolate cake that he was eating.

'It was so easy! It was a piece of cake!' said Lucas, smiling.

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best word to complete these sentences.

- 1. When Dimitri woke up he felt annoyed with his friend tired and a bit anxious.
- 2. He thought he was *unprepared* / well prepared for the exam.
- 3. Dimitri realised he didn't have his wallet when he was on the bus in the exam.
- 4. His friend Lucas *ent him some money bought him lunch* .
- 5. Lucas thought the exam was easy / difficult.
- 6. If you want to say something is easy in English, you can say it is 'a piece of cake / bread '.

2. Check your writing: matching – tenses

Match the example sentence with the purpose (and tense)

Example sentences

- 1. The sun was shining and the birds were singing.
- 2. E I was having a shower when she called.
- 3. I saw that film last week.
- I had been waiting for nearly an hour when he finally arrived.
- She had seen that boy somewhere before.

Purposes and tenses

- a completed action before a time in the past (Past perfect)
- b. something that started and continued until a time in the past (Past perfect continuous)
- c. setting the scene (Past continuous)
- d. a finished action at a specific time in the past (Past simple)
- e. an action that was in progress when there was an interruption (Past continuous and past simple)

3. Check your writing: gap fill – tenses

Complete the sentences with the correct tense of the verb in brackets.

Write one, two or three words

were walking 1. We decided to stop and rest our legs as we walk) all day. 2. After breakfast, Tim (go) down to the garden to get some fresh air. went had locked (lock) it from the inside. 3. I tried to open the door but someone was traveling travel) in Italy when I first met her. 4. had been 5. (rain) softly and people were starting to put up their umbrellas. had warned He looked again at the open door and the old, half-broken steps. His mother 6. (warn) him not to go near that house, but it fascinated him. were getting 'Come in out of the rain!' Dad said. While we (get) dry and chatting about the 7. evening's events, Dad made hot chocolate. had been She was really excited about the race. She (train) for weeks, and she knew she training 8.

was ready.

- http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/s ites/teens/files/a report - exercises.pdf
- http://english-topics.ucoz.ru/index/0-330