

## PET WRITING STORIES

- Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.
- Your story must begin with this sentence:

*I felt nervous when the phone rang.*

- Write your **story** on your answer sheet.

**Exposition** — *I felt nervous when the phone rang. It was midnight and I was trying to sleep. Who could it be?*

**Action** — *I got up and ran to the phone. However, as I was running, the phone stopped ringing. I was angry, but I decided to go to bed again. But when I was falling asleep, the phone started ringing again. "Oh, my God! This is so annoying!", I thought. This time I picked up the phone quickly and shouted, "Hello?!". Nobody said anything at first, but all of a sudden I heard, "Happy birthday, brother!".*

**Resolution** — *I had completely forgotten that it was my birthday. My sister was always the first person to congratulate me.*

### Expressions to use in your story

**Different expressions.** The vocabulary will vary, depending on the topic.

### **How to begin a story**

If the first sentence isn't given to you, you can use phrases like these:

- *It all began...*      *When I first...*      *At the beginning...*
- *It was a hot/cold summer/winter day.*

## Time phrases

**Pay careful attention to the time over which the story develops.** In order to **describe the order of the events in the story**, so use time expressions or time phrases. So, let's see a few:

- *Then*
- *After that*
- *Not long afterwards*
- *As soon as*
- *While*
- *Meanwhile*
- *As*
- *Some time later*
- *A little later*
- *\_\_\_\_\_ minutes later*
- *a moment later*
- *Later (that morning/afternoon/day/night...)*
- *Just then*

[It is essential to use these expressions properly. Otherwise, it won't be clear exactly how the story develops.](#)

## Creating suspense

When writing a story, the real purpose [is to entertain the reader.](#)

And a cool way to entertain is [to create suspense](#), which we can do by using some of the following expressions:

- *Suddenly*
- *All of a sudden*
- *Without warning*
- *Just at that moment*
- *Unexpectedly*
- *Out of the blue- inesperadamente*
- *Out of nowhere*
- *Right away*
- *Straight away*

## Direct speech

In every story there are characters and **they usually interact with each other**, so it is always good if you know how to use direct speech, that is, **reproduce the words the characters actually say or think.**

- *‘I'm coming with you,’ she said.*
- *She said, ‘he was coming with me.’*
- *‘Do you like it?’ he asked me if I liked it.*
- *‘Don't do it!’ he screamed to me not to do it.*

Pay attention at where the **comma** (,) or other **punctuation marks** go (?!). Also, don't forget to use **inverted commas (‘ ’)** to **enclose the direct speech**. In British English we normally use single inverted commas (‘...’)

## Finishing your story

This paragraph, [the resolution](#), should be separated from the rest, and it's a good idea to start it with one of the following expressions:

- *In the end*
- *Finally*
- *When it was all over*
- *Eventually*
- *After everything happened*
- *Luckily*

## Verb tenses

**They tend to take place in the past.** You should use:

- Past simple (-ed/irregular form)
- Past continuous
- Past perfect

### **-Past simple and continuous:**

*It **was** midnight and I **was trying** to sleep.*

### **-Past perfect and simple:**

*I **had** completely **forgotten** it **was** my birthday.*

### **-Past simple:**

*This time I **picked up** the phone quickly and **shouted**, 'Hello?!'.*

[Please avoid a simple succession of past simple tenses alone, like:](#)

*I **woke up** and **got out** of bed. Then I **went** to the kitchen and **made** some coffee.*

It's not wrong, but it's just **not good enough for a story**.

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