

LESSON 180

1093

Writing a story

Please note: There are writing homework titles at the end of this book.

sequence

set the scene

departure gate

boarding pass

devastated

(1) It's normal to use contractions when we write a story.

Always check!

(2) Linking expressions that communicate 'time' and 'sequence' ideas are especially important.

I was finally off to my brother's wedding. *I'd* never had the opportunity to visit New York before and I could hardly wait. I had a while to wait before boarding so, *in the meantime*, I sat in one of Heathrow Airport's many coffee bars to watch the planes taking off.

(3) Use the past simple to communicate the main events in the story.

Before long, my flight was announced, and *I quickly made my way* to the departure gate. *I was standing in the queue* when suddenly my stomach turned over. Where was my boarding pass? And my passport?

(4) Use the past continuous to set the scene and give background information.

I ran like I'd never run before. In my mind, I could still see my passport and boarding pass lying on the coffee bar table. *I'd left them there* in my mad hurry to get to the gate in time. How could I be so stupid!

(5) Use the past perfect to mention something that happened at an earlier time.

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I burst into the coffee bar and went immediately to the table I'd been sitting at; my documents weren't there! I stood there in silence, *devastated*.

"Is this yours, sir?" said a voice behind me *politely*.

(6) Make descriptions more interesting by using adjectives and adverbs.

I turned to see a smiling waiter, and in his hand, a British passport with a boarding pass sandwiched between its pages.

"Yes! Oh, thank you," I replied. "Thank you so much!"

"You're very welcome," he said calmly. "Now, you'd better get going, hadn't you, sir?" I took the documents and set off back, possibly even faster than before. I arrived, completely out of breath, just as the staff were about to close the gate.

"Wait!" I called out desperately, opening the passport at the photo page as I approached them. I looked down at the face in the picture. It wasn't mine.

When we're writing a story, is it normal to use contractions? Yes, when ...

Which kind of linking expressions are especially important when we're telling a story? The kind ... ones that communicate 'time' and 'sequence' ideas

Give me some examples, please. before long; three weeks later; meanwhile etc.

Which tenses do we normally use when telling or writing a story? When ..., ... the past simple, the past continuous, and the past perfect

In a story, what's the purpose of the past simple? In ..., ... to communicate the main events in the story

Give me an example, please. I suddenly saw a man

And what's the purpose of the past continuous? The purpose ... to set the scene and give background information

Give me an example, please. I was walking along the street one day when I suddenly saw a man

1095 When do we use the past perfect in a story? We ... to mention something that happened at an earlier time

Give me an example, please. I was walking along the street one day when I suddenly saw a man that I had been to secondary school with

Tell me a simple way of making descriptions in a story more interesting. A simple ... by using adverbs and adjectives

Repeat this sentence, adding words to improve the description: "The man put the gun back on the table". The old man slowly put the gun back on the table. Surprisingly, the man put the loaded gun back on the table.

sum

subtract (take away)

Why is it a good idea to avoid carrying large sums of cash around with you when you're travelling? It's a good idea ... because ...

Are you good at doing sums in your head? Yes, ... ~ No, ...

What do we get if we subtract (or take away) four from nine?
If ..., we get five

send for

How did you feel at school on occasions when the head teacher sent for you? I felt ...

upkeep

finance

What kind of buildings have their upkeep financed by the public?
Government buildings, schools, hospitals etc. have ...

1096 **hold up**

postal

What kind of things can cause a postal service to be held up?
Strikes, bad weather etc. can cause ...

take up

Why is it common for people to lose their enthusiasm quite soon after taking up physical exercise?
It's common for ... because they discover it's harder or less interesting than they thought it would be

Which object in this room takes up the most space?
... takes up ... in this room

trend

Regarding trends in fashion, who are usually the more aware: teenagers or the middle-aged?
Regarding ..., teenagers ...

And regarding trends in the economy? Regarding ..., the middle-aged ...

relation

mental

Would you say there was a strong relation between a football team's mental attitude and the level of success they enjoy?
Yes, I'd say ...

uppermost

Make a sentence with the word "uppermost", please. When I'm driving in London, safety is always uppermost in my mind

1097 **blond (masculine)**

blonde (feminine)

Name a famous person with blond (blonde) hair. ... is a ...

In what way is the adjective "blond" an unusual word? The adjective ... because we add the letter "e" to it to make the feminine form

contrast

What's the biggest contrast between the north and south of this country? The biggest ... the landscape, the weather, the economic conditions etc.

monitor

attendance

Why is it important for this school to monitor your lesson attendance? It's important ...

overwhelm

coil

Do some snakes overwhelm other animals by coiling around them and squeezing tightly? Yes, ...

If an athlete at the Olympics is overwhelmed by the occasion, what effect can that have on their performance? If ..., their performance can deteriorate

correspond

How do the majority of people correspond these days? The majority ... by email, text etc.

The role of an umpire and the role of a referee are similar: to control a sporting activity and make sure the rules are followed correctly. A referee generally moves around a lot, as in football and boxing. An umpire, on the other hand, generally remains in one position, as in tennis and cricket.

Name two sports that have umpires rather than referees. Tennis and cricket are ...

Why do football referees need to be more physically fit than tennis umpires? Football referees ... they need to run around during a match, whereas tennis umpires are seated

turnover

The turnover of a company is the value of the goods and services that the company sells in any particular period.

If a retail company found a cheaper supplier for the goods it sold, which would increase: the company's turnover or the company's profits? If ..., the company's profits would increase

award

scholarship

What type of award is a scholarship? A scholarship is a financial award that's given to a student by an organization to help with their education, often because the student is particularly clever or talented

response

When someone says "How do you do?", what's the appropriate response? When ..., the appropriate response is "How do you do?"

What'd be the likely outcome of a nuclear world war? The likely outcome of ... the almost total destruction of life on our planet; even if some people survived, a civilized existence would be virtually impossible

Why do airlines use virtual reality during the initial training of pilots rather than real aircraft? Airlines ... because the consequences of a mistake made while flying a real aircraft are potentially fatal

even so

Give me an example of "even so", please. It rained almost every day we were in Paris. Even so, we managed to enjoy ourselves enormously.

Word pool 1: revision exercise

For each sentence below, choose one word from the word pool that fits correctly in the gap.

flaw	heir	escalator	gadget	maid
flair	dormitory	client	academy	victim
penalty	recreation	bench	napkin	suburb

- 1 Paul's paintings are amazing; he's got a real _____ for art.
- 2 Her biggest _____ is that she doesn't really listen to other people's opinions.
- 3 In those days, the _____ for such a crime was death by hanging.
- 4 The manager used to get very angry if the waiters didn't fold every _____ perfectly.
- 5 Every new electrical _____ Philip buys for the kitchen ends up at the back of a cupboard.
- 1100 6 Rebecca was happy because her new _____ at school had very comfortable beds.
- 7 For some reason, the _____ wasn't working so we had to walk up.

- 8 Ken deliberately put his bag next to him on the _____ so that nobody else would sit there.
- 9 The facilities for sport and _____ that the hotel offers are the best in the area.
- 10 I prefer the _____ they have now; she's much more efficient than the last one they employed.
- 11 It's a lovely _____ but it's too far from the city centre for me to consider buying a house there.
- 12 Mr Johnson is a brand new _____ so we need to make a special effort to impress him.
- 13 As the _____ to a large fortune, he doesn't need a job at all, but he feels it's important to work.
- 14 Why are you defending him? You must realize I'm the _____ in this situation!
- 15 John was accepted by the _____ owing to his impressive exam results.

It was by no means/ a desperate time for her/ after the divorce;/ in fact, she coped very well indeed./ Neither of us can stand/ using the vacuum cleaner,/ so what's stopping us/ paying someone to do the household chores/ while we're at work?/ Let's hope the bridegroom/ gives a decent speech./ Richard glanced up/ and was thrilled to spot/ the marvellous city lights ahead./ It had been a long, tedious train journey,/ but soon he'd be home again,/ catching up with family and friends./ This sweater I knitted is fabulous/ but slightly too large./ Can I deliberately shrink it/ in the washing machine?/ Children often go through/ a stubborn phase/ when they rebel/ against their parents' authority./ Perceive, loathe, overdraft, leisure, pursue.