



WRITING A STORY



Scan to review worksheet

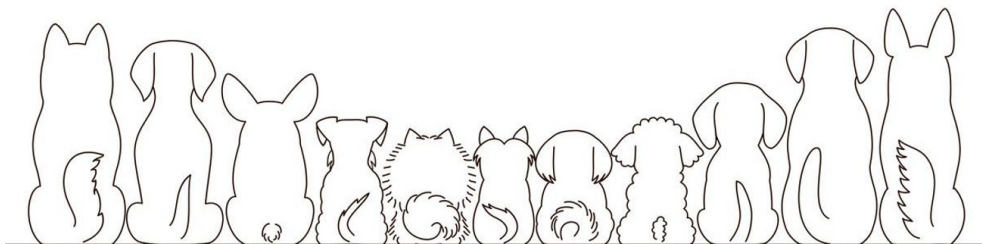
Expemo code:
15RE-T7J9-3Q2B

1 Warm up

Look at these story titles. Work in pairs and talk about what you think happens in each story.

- The million-dollar dog
- My dog saved my life!
- The greedy dog
- My dog is a winner

1. Which story sounds the most interesting?
2. Which of these could be true?
3. When was the last time you wrote or told a story from your imagination?





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Reading

Read the story quickly. Do not write anything.

Now answer these questions:

1. Which title from the Warm up is best for this story?
2. Was this a professional match?
3. How often did Penny go to the park?
4. Was the writer surprised by what Penny did?
5. Why was the goal so important?

A) I **played / was playing** in a football match in the park with another team B) **what / who** went to a different school. The score was 2-2, C) **and / but** my dog Penny was watching. Penny and I D) **used to train / use to train** in the park every day, so she E) **was knowing / knew** how to score a goal. Suddenly, Penny ran into the game and picked up the ball in her mouth. F) **At first / firstly**, I thought she was going to bring the ball to me, G) **and next / but then** she ran to the goal and dropped the ball in. "If Penny H) **weren't / isn't** a dog, we I) **had / would** allow that goal!" said a player on the other team. J) **Although / But** we didn't win the game, Penny was a hero.

Read the story again and choose the best option (A-J) to complete the phrases. Then match the options to the language points.

1. a conjunction of contrast _____
2. a state verb that cannot be used in continuous forms _____
3. describing an unreal present situation _____
4. a conjunction of addition _____
5. introducing the first part of a changing situation _____
6. introducing the second part of a changing situation _____
7. past continuous to set the scene at the beginning of the story _____
8. refers to past repeated actions _____
9. a relative pronoun referring to people _____
10. the result or effect of an unreal situation _____



3 Language point

Successful stories include a number of features. Read about how stories are marked and answer the questions.

What you write about: if you are writing a story for a homework assignment or an exam, you must follow the instructions. It doesn't matter how good your story is if it doesn't match the instructions.

Which of these instructions match the story you just read? Why are the others a bad match?

1. Your English teacher has asked you to write a story. Your story must begin with this sentence: Football is my favourite game. Write your answer in 50 words.
2. You see this notice on an English language website: Articles wanted! Pets and exercise: does your pet help you get fit? Write your article in 100 words.
3. Your English teacher has asked you to write a story about a pet that does something surprising. Write your answer in about 100 words.

How you tell the story: A successful story keeps the reader interested until the end. One way to make a story more interesting is to include direct speech, to report what someone said.

Which of these examples of direct speech has the correct punctuation?

1. Don't go in there, he shouted. It's too dangerous.
2. "Don't go in there," he shouted. "It's too dangerous."
3. "Don't go in there' he shouted "It's too dangerous."

- **Adverbs also make a story more interesting. Find an adverb in the story you read earlier.**

Organisation: your story should be easy to understand and follow a logical order. Using paragraphs will help the reader understand what happens. Make sure you plan your story before you start writing. Sometimes people feel stressed because of the time limit on exams, but it's always a good idea to think for a minute before you start writing.

- **The story you read earlier would have been better with two paragraphs. Where should the second paragraph begin?**



Language: if you are writing a story for an exam, you are trying to show your best level in English. Examiners are looking for a good range of vocabulary and grammar, for example, the language points A-J from the Reading.

- It's normal to make mistakes when you're writing in another language, but you should not make mistakes with easy grammar or vocabulary and the reader should understand the story.
- If you are writing a story for homework, this is an opportunity to practise new vocabulary and grammar that you have just learned.
- Always leave time to check your work for mistakes.

4 Practice

Read the story quickly and decide which title from the Warm up is the best match.

Complete the story with missing words. The words start with the letters you are given.

When I was a child, my family h _____¹ a house at the beach, a _____² we u _____³ to go there every summer. One morning, I was w _____⁴ on the beach with my dog, Lou. I threw a ball to Lou, b _____⁵ he didn't catch it. The ball went into a hole in the rock. It was a cave! When Lou and I went into the cave w _____⁶ the ball was, we saw some drawings on the walls. They looked very old. I wanted to stay and look at the drawings. Lou was not happy in the cave, s _____⁷ he pulled me out. A man w _____⁸ walking past. "Don't go in there," he s _____⁹, "it's too dangerous." S _____¹⁰, some rocks fell down and closed the cave forever.





5 Writing

Read the writing task instructions. Then cover your paper and remember what you have to do.

- Your English teacher has asked you to write a story. Your story must begin with this sentence: I was walking down the street when I saw an unusual-looking dog.
- Write your answer in 100 words.
- First, think about what will happen in your story. Make a note of 10-12 keywords you want to include.

1. Tell your story to a partner. Does your partner have any advice for improving your story?
2. Write your story, using some of the language points A-J from the Reading.

Tip

It's a good idea to double-space your writing if your teacher is going to mark it. This means to write on one line and then leave the next line free so your teacher has space to make comments and correction.



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Extra practice/homework

Put the lines in order to make a story called "The greedy dog".

A dog was running home with a big delicious bone. 1

As he was going over a little bridge, he looked down into the water. ____

He dropped his own bone and jumped into the river to fight the other dog. ____

He felt really stupid. ____

He saw himself in the water, like in a mirror, but he didn't understand that he was looking at himself.

He thought he saw another dog with a bone that was bigger than his. ____

Of course, soon he was swimming to the side of the river and trying to get out. ____

Suddenly he understood. ____

"That dog is very handsome, and he has a better bone than I do," said the dog to himself. "I want his bone!" ____



Now, write a conditional sentence that explains the moral, or what we can learn from the story.

1. _____

Underline these language points in the story:

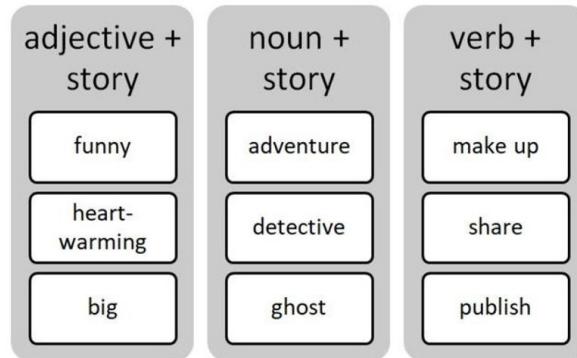
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5. a relative pronoun referring to a thing



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Optional extension

Collocations are words that we often use together. There are lots of collocations for the word *story*. Study the diagram and then use the correct form of the words to complete the sentences.



1. Don't read this _____ story when you're alone in the house!
2. I have to tell you this _____ story. It really made me laugh.
3. I was reading this _____ story and it was so exciting that I didn't get to sleep until midnight.
4. My niece _____ really crazy stories about her toys.
5. She's read every _____ story in the library, and she's guessed every solution correctly.
6. Thanks for _____ that story with me. I love hearing about your family.
7. The _____ story in all the newspapers today is about climate change.
8. The papers are going to _____ a story about the prince and princess.
9. You'll love this _____ story about a girl and her dog.

What types of stories do you enjoy reading?