

# How to write a narrative

In a narrative we tell a story or recount an event.

The story can be true or imaginary.

We usually use past tenses.

## Remember!

### 1 Structure

- Give your story a clear beginning, middle and ending.

### 2 Content

- Make your story as interesting and exciting as possible.
- Talk about the atmosphere and your feelings.
- Use a variety of verbs, adjectives and adverbs to add interest.
- Use a range of past tenses.
- Use sequencing words and linkers to indicate the order of events.

## Useful language

**Starting:** I had never been so excited / happy, etc. / It was the best / worst day of my life. / It was completely dark! / I will always remember ... / One of my happiest / worst memories ...

**Time expressions:** one day, / last week, / two days ago / since Monday / for a week / at midnight,

**Time linkers:** When ... / As soon as ... / While ...

**Sequencing words:** Before ... / At first, ... / Later, ... / Then ... / After that, ... / Afterwards, ...

**Manner adverbs:** angrily / happily / quietly / suddenly

**Degree adverbs:** really / very / extremely

**Comment adverbs:** amazingly / luckily / (un)fortunately

**Feelings:** surprised / excited / scared / lonely / worried / happy

**Ending:** In the end, ... / Never again! / What a/an ...! / I hope something like that never happens again!

## Model question

Write a story about something frightening that happened on a journey.

## Model answer

It was the most frightening moment of my life! I was late because I had overslept. I missed my normal train, so I took the 10.00 train instead. When I got off at Wyford, I stepped into a real nightmare.

I knew something was wrong as soon as I started walking along the platform. There was a group of people standing very still and looking at something or someone. When I got nearer, I saw that a man and a woman were standing outside the ticket office. The man was pointing a gun at the woman. I was terrified!

It was so strange. Everyone stopped moving and watched the man. It was like a scene from a film! Suddenly, two police officers came up behind the man and knocked the gun out of his hand. Later, someone told me that it wasn't a real gun, it was a toy. The man had stolen money from the ticket office and the woman had tried to stop him. Fortunately, the man was caught and no one was hurt, but I hope that nothing as frightening as this ever happens again!

interesting start

past tenses

time expressions

atmosphere

adverb of degree

feelings

atmosphere

manner adverb

sequencing

comment adverb

ending