

Une image contenant texte, carte de visite

Description générée automatiquement



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*A lot of people wish to be authors because they love reading stories or watching movies. Writing stories is an art that requires methodology and practise.*

In this booklet, you will:

**Study how to write a narrative text;**

**Review the following notions:**

* Definition of a narrative writing.
* How to brainstorm.
* How to plan.
* Linking words.

**Read an article and an example**

**Write your own narrative text**

## **Definition of a narrative**

We like to hear about other’s stories, lives or experiences as well as we like to share with people our own stories. Who does not enjoy reading a good novel and watching a movie or series? Someone had to write those for our entertainment.

Therefore, it is important to know how to write a story.

One day, I attended a writing class. The author advised us to write about a topic we liked. She also added that her inspiration came from real facts. It is easier to describe something we know well.

* **What kind of story do your read or do you watch and why? Share your answers with your teacher).**

Example: I love reading suspense novels because I like to escape into another world that scares me.

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* **When reading a book, what kinds of information are the most important?**

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## Practise elements of a story

* **Think of a subject you would like to write about.**

## **Brainstorming**

Ah! Yes! It is not the first time you hear about the importance of thinking about and planning your writing. But it is a crucial and important step to write a text that the audience can read with attention!

**Example of Brainstorming. Mind Map**

BEGINNING¸Setting

MIDDLE

Event

Main character

Age: 15

From Europe to USA

Situation, time, place

Anecdotes

Descriptive details

Mixed feelings: excitement/anxiety

My first flight to the USA

Feelings

CONCLUSION

Resolution

Feelings

How this trip changed my life

## **Planning the task: The Plot**

What is a plot, you ask?

**A plot is a list of logical events in your story.**

* **Plot Template**

**Give a title**

My first flight to the USA

**Step 1- Beginning – Introduce the main characters, the setting, the situation.**

**Plotline: The main character faces a problem.**

Main character : I

Situation, place, time: First flight from Europe to the USA – 15 years old

Mixed feelings: anxiety/excitement

**Step 2- Middle – Description of the event.**

* **Turning point of the problem.**

Description of the event

Anecdotes

Feelings

**Step 3- End – Resolution of the problem.**

How this trip change the character’s life.

## Practise descriptions

* **Think of a setting (place, time and situation where the action takes place).**\*Use a place you know well and describe it. Make it real for the reader.

Tip

* **Think of two opposite characters you want to talk about and describe them (give two characteristics).**

\* Description of your character: **Use bad and good adjectives.**

kind awesome caring patient humble adventurous courageous

Mean rude cunning selfish arrogant cynical aloof

boastful

Tip

***\*Describe these people and make them be real.***

***Example:*** “He ... boasted an unassuming mustache, which was perched atop his upper lip cautiously, as though it were slightly embarrassed to be there and would like to slide away and become a sideburn or something more fashionable.”   
― **Gail Carriger,**[**Etiquette & Espionage**](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/15789500)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Character:** | **Character:** |
| **Characteristic 1:** | **Characteristic 1:** |
| **Characteristic 2:** | **Characteristic 2:** |

* **Imagine a common goal/situation that both of your characters want to achieve.**

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* **Describe how each one of your characters will achieve their goal, taking into account their two different personalities.**

**Character 1**

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**Character 2**

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* **Imagine a dialogue between them.**

\*Dialogues should be short and must add new information, drama to your story.

Tip

\***Dialogue tags**- instead of using: He said angrily, “Open your books.” you could illustrate the mood of your character by writing: He violently slammed the door, turned to the students with a mean look. “Open your book. Now!”

**Character 1**

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**Character 2**

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## **Linking Words**

Writing requires to use linking words

***You may want to check for more:***

[***https://www.smart-words.org/linking-words/transition-words.html***](https://www.smart-words.org/linking-words/transition-words.html)

**Agreement, addition, similarity**

First, second, third, in addition, as a matter of fact, and, also, moreover, too, as, as well as, furthermore

**Opposition, contraction, limitations**

However, but, yet, although, otherwise, even though, besides, despite of, on the contrary.

**Consequence, result**

as a result, in that case, for this reason, in effect, for, because, then, hence, consequently, therefore

**Cause, condition, intention**

If, then, unless, when, whenever, while, because of, as, since, while, provided that, even if, so that

**Time, chronology, sequence**

at the present time, from time to time, sooner or later, at the same time, up to the present time, to begin with, as soon as, as long as, in the meantime, first, second, finally, after, later, last, until, since, then, before.

**Conclusion**

generally speaking, all things considered, as shown above, in a word, in summary, in conclusion, in short, to summarize, overall, ultimately

## **Read a story and Practice an example**

## Read the story

* Underline the linking words.
* Complete the plot template.
* Check your answers with the suggested plot template

[**‘Crooner’ (Kazuo Ishiguro)**](https://theeveningrednessinthewest.wordpress.com/2009/10/25/a-short-story-by-kazuo-ishiguro/)

Tony Gardner had been my mother’s favourite. Back home, back in the communist days, it had been really hard to get records like that, but my mother had pretty much his whole collection. Once when I was a boy, I scratched one of those precious records. The apartment was so cramped, and a boy my age, you just had to move around sometimes, especially during those cold months when you couldn’t go outside. So I was playing this game jumping from our little sofa to the armchair, and one time I misjudged it and hit the record player. The needle went across the record with a zip—this was long before CDs—and my mother came in from the kitchen and began shouting at me. I felt so bad, not just because she was shouting at me, but because I knew it was one of Tony Gardner’s records, and I knew how much it meant to her. And I knew that this one too would now have those popping noises going through it while he crooned those American songs. Years later, when I was working in Warsaw and I got to know about black-market records, I gave my mother replacements of all her worn-out Tony Gardner albums, including that one I scratched. It took me over three years, but I kept getting them, one by one, and each time I went back to see her I’d bring her another.

This short story appeared in his short-story collection [*Nocturnes*](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B002OK2OP8/?tag=longreads-20).

Source: https://longreads.com/2018/01/09/10-outstanding-short-stories-to-read-in-2018/

* Complete the plot template

**Give a title**

**Step 1- Beginning – Introduce the main characters, the setting, the situation.**

**Plotline: The main character faces a problem.**

**Step 2- Middle – Description of the event.**

* **Turning point of the problem.**

**Step 3- End – Resolution of the problem.**

* Chek your answers with the answer key

Answer key

Crooner

**Give a title**

**Step 1- Introduction**

Setting: A communist country, small apartment

Characters: A young boy and his mother

Situation: His mom’s favourite records

**Step 2- Middle**

Characters: Description of the boy’s actions

Mom’s reaction when the problem happens.

Situation: A problem happens and its results.

Main character is trying to overcome the problem. (Turning point)

Setting: Years later.

Resolution of the problem: The character bought all the records of Tony Gardner he could find to offer them to his mom.

**Step 3- Conclusion**

## **Write Your Own Narrative**

Write a 250-word story that has three or four paragraphs long.

Topic: Your personal choice. It can be a fictional or a true story.

* Brainstorm

**Your Mind Map**

BEGINNING

Settings

MIDDLE

Event

CONCLUSION

* **Plan and use plot template**

**Give a title**

**Step 1- Beginning – Introduce the main characters, the setting, the situation.**

**Plotline: The main character faces a problem.**

**Step 2- Middle – Description of the event.**

* **Turning point of the problem.**

**Step 3- End – Resolution of the problem.**

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