**Unit 3 – Writing a story**

**Lead-in**

1. a) Why do people write stories?

b) How can you make a story interesting?

**Using descriptive language: Adjectives & adverbs**

1. **a) The following adjectives and adverbs can be used instead of other simplistic ones. Put them in the correct box.**

*absolutely, completely, delightful, disgusting, enormous, extremely, fabulous, gigantic, horrible, horrifying, huge, magnificent, massive, microscopic, nasty, superb, terrible, terrific, tiny, totally, unpleasant, wonderful*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| BIG |  |
| SMALL |  |
| VERY |  |
| GOOD/NICE |  |
| BAD |  |

**b) Now replace the words in bold in the following paragraphs with suitable words from the boxes above.**

1. The **1) big** old caste stood at the top of a(n) **2) big** mountain. I was **3) very** terrified as I approached and jumped with fright when I heard a(n) **4) bad** scream from the direction of the castle. My heart was in my mouth as I knocked on the **5) big** front door, and the sound of **6) small** scurrying feet behind the door made me imagine **7) big 8) bad** rats running away to hide.
2. It was a **9) nice** evening, and after a **10) nice** sunset, the stars were a million **11) small** points of light in the sky. “A(n) **12) nice** end to a(n) **13) very 14) nice** day,” Brian thought to himself; and after the **15) bad** week which had just passed, he was pleased to breathe a **16) big** sigh of relief.
3. **The adverbs below describe the way a person might speak or act. Explain what each adverb means, then use them to complete the sentences.**

***sarcastically, angrily, threateningly, frantically, hurriedly, miserably, confidently, suddenly, urgently, nervously, patiently, calmly***

1. The woman on the third-floor balcony of the burning building waved her arms \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to attract the fireman’s attention.
2. “Get out of here!” Bill shouted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, his face turning red.
3. “My dog has run away!” the little girl sobbed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, without any warning, her guide spun round and held a knife to her throat.
5. The detective looked at him in disbelief. “Oh, yes, of course someone like you wouldn’t want 5 million pounds,” he said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. She gathered her papers together \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and rushed off to the meeting, which had already begun.
7. “If you tell anyone, you’ll be sorry,” said the kidnapper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
8. “Don’t worry, I’ll kill the dragon,” the knight said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the king.

**Using linking words & phrases**

**Read the following texts and fill in the gaps with linking words or phrases from the lists below.**

1. ***as soon as, at last, immediately, meanwhile, then, when, while***

The aeroplane had only been in the air for about twenty minutes 1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ suddenly it began to dive towards the ground. 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the passengers began to panic. 3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the flight attendants realised what was happening, they did their best to calm everyone down, 4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the plane continued to lose altitude.

5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in the cockpit, the pilot was struggling to control the plane. 6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it righted itself and he sighed with relief. The flight 7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ continued without any further problems.

1. ***after, before, finally, since, then, when***

There had never been a storm like it 1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - at least not 2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the great flood in 1962. Kevin was trying to steer his car through the pouring rain 3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ all of a sudden his car stopped. The engine continued to run for a few seconds, 4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ coughed twice and fell silent.

Reluctantly, Kevin got out of his car and watched it sink slowly into the mud at the side of the road. 5) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ staring at his useless car for a few minutes, he 6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stuck his hands into his pockets, bent his head and began the long walk home.

**Analysing the topic**

You are writing a story for your school online magazine. Your story must begin with this sentence:

*“Totally exhausted, Jake was making his way home after he had finished his night shift.”*

Your story must include:

* a fire
* a rescue

Write 120-150 words.

**Answer these questions:**

* What do you have to write?
* Who is going to read your story?
* How are you going to start?
* What elements do you have to include in your story?
* Who is your main character?
* What person are you going to use in your narrative?
* What tenses are you going to use?

**Write your story**

* Think of a storyline or you may follow the suggested storyline to write your story (see below).
* Use the questions in order to add details.
* Use **adjectives** (e.g. huge, horrified) and **adverbs** (e.g. suddenly, desperately, extremely) to make your description more interesting.
* Use the **plot diagram** on the next page to organize your ideas.
* Write **3 paragraphs** (introduction, main events, conclusion).
* Use **linking** **words** (e.g. as soon as, meanwhile, when, at last) to connect your ideas.

SUGGESTED STORYLINE & QUESTIONS

1. Jake was going home after his night shift.

*What time was it? What was the weather like? What do we know about him (e.g. his job)?*

1. He noticed a burning smell in the air.

*Where was it coming from? What did he think? What did he do?*

1. He saw a fire at an apartment.

*Where was it? On which floor? Was anybody else there?*

1. Some children were trapped in the apartment.

*What were they doing? What did he think? What did he decide to do?*

1. He saved the children, but was seriously injured.

*How did he get into the apartment? How did he manage to save the children? What happened to him?*

1. He woke up in hospital. The children were there.

*When did he wake up? How did he feel? Who else was there? How did he feel when he saw the children?*

**Plot Diagram**

**Climax** (high point/turning point-main character faces the conflict and goes through a change)

**Falling Action** (moves towards solution)

**Rising Action** (tension Increases)

**PLOT TRIANGLE**

**Introduction** (setting & characters)

**Resolution** (solving conflict/problem)