

Writing: a dramatic story

Learning Focus

Making stories more interesting

There are several ways to make your stories interesting.

- Interesting stories start with a **dramatic opening sentence**, which will make the reader want to read on.
- **Descriptive adjectives and adverbs** help the reader to imagine the characters and the action.
- You can also use some **idiomatic expressions** to make your writing more colourful.
- **Direct speech** and **short dramatic sentences** in places add variety and drama.
- **Introducing a twist** in the story in which something unexpected happens can add suspense.
- Finally, **an interesting ending** to the story is also important.



A Match the ways of making your story more interesting 1–8 with the examples a–h.

- descriptive adjectives ☐
- dramatic opening sentence ☐
- descriptive adverbs ☐
- direct speech ☐
- idiomatic expressions ☐
- short, dramatic sentence ☐
- a twist in the story ☐
- an interesting ending ☐

- Unfortunately, the two cousins have never seen eye to eye.
- 'Please don't leave me! I promise I won't hurt you again,' she said.
- Today was the day when Hannah was going to meet her sister for the first time.
- He jumped quickly out of bed, rushed downstairs and opened the door nervously.
- Like most teenagers, Hannah was independent and not very communicative.
- He left the building with tears in his eyes. That part of his life was over.
- They had always been a loving family, but one day something happened to change that forever.
- He stopped and stared.

B Read the writing task below and then answer the questions about it in your notebook.

Your teacher has asked you to write a story. Your story must begin with this sentence.
Sally was extremely nervous.
(100 words)

- How will your story start?
- How does Sally feel?
- Do you have to explain why she feels this way in the story?

C Read the example story and underline techniques from A that make the story more interesting.

Sally was extremely nervous. It was their turn to dance. Sally breathed deeply while Maddy was completely relaxed. 'Come on!' said Maddy. 'We've got to win!'

Maddy and Sally met at dance class a year ago. They quickly discovered they had a lot in common. When their teacher entered them in a competition, they were very excited.

This was their big chance. However, when the music started Sally froze. Maddy was angry but carried on. When the music stopped, Maddy headed for the door. Sally knew she had let Maddy down. Worst of all, she had lost a friend.