

7 Read the task below. Then complete gaps 1–7 in the story with the phrases from the box. There is one extra phrase.

Your school is holding a competition for the best short story about a surprising event. Write a story. Include and develop these points:

- Give information to set the scene.
- Describe what happened on that day using different past tenses and structures.
- Use different words and phrases to show the order of events and add interest.
- Give your story a strong ending.

(didn't use to care didn't use to smile
used to have used to laugh used to see
didn't use to take used to tell used to walk)

An unexpected gift

I was 17 years old ^awhen / while I moved to my village. Every day I ¹_____ the same way home from school and every day I ²_____ an old man. He ^bwas / were sitting quietly under the same tree. He always looked miserable and children ³_____ at him.

During the next few weeks I ^cstarted / was starting to say hello when I saw him under the tree and later we actually became good friends. I ⁴_____ him about the exams I was taking at school and he told me all about the job he ⁵_____ as a conservationist. I ^dhave / must admit I ⁶_____ about the environment, but thanks to him, I started to think about it more carefully.

Anyway, one day he wasn't there. And he wasn't there the next day. What ^ewas going / went on? I went to his house to look for him. Unfortunately, I found out he died the day before.

Then, a few weeks later when I ^fwasn't / was walking home from school, a young woman came and gave me a letter. It was from the old man's wife. He told her about our conversations and that he felt cheerful when he was talking to me. He decided that he ^gwas wanting / wanted to give me a gift.

He ^hgave / was giving me his special bracelet. He ⁷_____ it off. Now I do the same. The old man is a friend I'll never forget.

8 Read the story again. Choose the correct words a–h.

9 Look at the story in Exercise 7 again and find examples for some of the tips in Exercise 1.

Tip 3 3 examples of the Past Continuous:

Tip 4 2 adjectives to describe the old man:

2 adverbs: _____

1 phrase: _____

Tip 5 4 linkers and time expressions showing the order of events:

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

10 You see a short story competition in your favourite magazine and decide to enter. Write a story with the title 'A day to remember'. Include and develop these points:

- Give information to set the scene.
- Describe what happened on that day using different tenses and structures.
- Use different words and phrases to show the order of events and add interest.
- Give your story a strong ending.



SHOW THAT YOU'VE CHECKED

Finished? Always check your writing. Can you tick ✓ everything on this list?

In my story:

- I have given information to set the scene, e.g. *I was ten years old ... , It was a cold dark evening.*
- I have used the Past Simple and Continuous, and perhaps used to to describe what happened, e.g. *It started to rain as I was climbing the mountain.*
- I have used different words and phrases to make my story interesting for the reader, e.g. *What was going on? It was awesome!*
- I have included adverbs to add interest, e.g. *Suddenly, Luckily, incredibly.*
- I have given my story a strong ending, e.g. *I'll never forget when I first went ..., ... was an event I'll never forget.*
- I have checked my spelling and punctuation.
- My text is neat and clear.