

● A narrative can be written in the first or the third person and describes a series of events, either imaginary or based on your own experience. A good narrative should consist of:

- a) an **introduction** in which you set the scene (people involved, time, place) in an interesting way to catch the reader's attention and make him/her want to continue reading your story;
- b) a **main body** consisting of two or more paragraphs in which you develop your story; and
- c) a **conclusion** in which you can refer to people's feelings, comments and reactions or consequences. The more unpredictable your conclusion is, the longer-lasting the impression it will make on the reader.

This type of writing can be found in novels, articles, witness statements, etc.

Points to consider

- You should never start writing your story before you have decided on a plot.
- Sequence of events is very important. Use time words such as: **at first, before, until, while, during, then, after, finally**, etc.
- Use of various adjectives (disgusted, exhilarating, etc.) and adverbs (fearlessly, surprisingly, etc.) to describe feelings and actions, as well as use of direct speech and a variety of verbs, will make your story more exciting to read.
- Be careful with the tenses you choose. You can use **Past Continuous** to set the scene (e.g. *It was raining hard and the wind was blowing as Jonathan drove towards the small cottage.*), **Past Simple** to describe the main events of the story. (e.g. *Jonathan opened the garden gate and went through the garden towards the front door. He knocked on the door but there was no answer.*) or **Past Perfect** to give the background of the story (e.g. *Jonathan had been planning to visit the old cottage for months before he was able to do so.*) **Present and past participles** can also be used. e.g. **Startled**, **he went round the house towards the back door**.
- Descriptions of people, places, objects or events and descriptive techniques can be used in a narrative when you want to emphasise specific parts of your narration.

Introduction

Paragraph 1

Set the scene (who – where – when – what)

Main Body

Paragraphs 2 - 4

Development

(describe incidents leading up to the main event and the event itself in detail)

Conclusion

Final Paragraph

End the story

(refer to moods, consequences, people's reactions, feelings, comments)