

WRITING: Making a narrative interesting

COINCIDENCE IN CAIRO

I had become fascinated with Egypt after spending hours in the Egyptian section of our local museum. As a child, I always wanted to go there. However, my parents weren't thrilled with the idea, so I had to wait until I could afford to pay for the trip myself.

To be honest, I'd almost forgotten about it, but then my friend Angela mentioned that her sister was working in Egypt. ¹ So last summer I decided to go there on vacation. I bought a plane ticket from Chicago to Cairo and reserved a hotel downtown that Angela had recommended.

As soon as I arrived, I went straight to the tourist office and reserved a place on a tour of the great Pyramids. ² I turned to look at the person next to me, to see if he or she was as amazed as I was, and, to my surprise, I came face to face with – Angela!

At first I thought Angela was playing a trick on me. "Why didn't you tell me you were coming?" I asked. ³

"I'm sorry, do I know you?" she asked, rather suspiciously.

"Come on, Angela!" I said. "What's going on?"

⁴ "I don't believe it!" she exclaimed. "People often confuse me with my sister at home, but it's never happened here in Egypt before! Hi, I'm Caroline."

Before I left Cairo, I got together with Caroline a few more times. As soon as I got home, I called Angela. "You told me you had a sister, but you forgot to mention that you were identical twins!" I said.

But still, meeting Caroline in that crowded tourist spot was incredible. ⁵



1 Read the blog post quickly, ignoring the blanks. Choose the best summary.

- a The narrator went to Egypt, but didn't enjoy his vacation.
- b The narrator went to Egypt and met his friend Angela there.
- c The narrator went on vacation to Egypt and met his friend's sister by chance.

2 Read the blog post again. Match blanks 1–5 with sentences a–g. There are two extra sentences.

- a It was a chance in a million!
- b The sun was high in the clear, blue sky.
- c I was so excited to be there at last, looking at these incredible structures.
- d Then the woman started laughing.
- e She had fair, wavy hair and was wearing a large sun hat.
- f But she just gave me a strange look.
- g That reminded me of my old dream.

3 Look at the underlined words as *soon as*, *before*, *after*, and *until* in the text. Use each word or phrase twice to complete these sentences.

- 1 Carlos will need to borrow some money _____ he can buy a car.
- 2 _____ I met James, I knew I would marry him.
- 3 I spoke to Laurence _____ the show, and he said he had enjoyed it.
- 4 Dougal hopes to work as an engineer _____ college.
- 5 I'm not hungry, thank you. We ate _____ we went out.
- 6 Keir took his exams in June, but he won't get the results _____ August.
- 7 Please let me know _____ you have any news about Paul.
- 8 Priti had to stay in the office _____ she had finished all her work.

4 Write a blog post about an amazing event. Include two of these sentences in your blog.

- It was an amazing coincidence!
- He was tall with long, blond hair and blue eyes.
- I felt very sad when it was time for us to say goodbye.
- It was one of the happiest days of my life.
- Unfortunately, we had missed the last train.
- It hadn't stopped raining since we arrived.