



How I write *By author Clare Kennedy*

People often ask me how I **(a)** (make up/read on) my stories. And it's a good question! Well, first of all I **(b)** (flick through/write down) the basic plot and then the main characters. Then, after a day or two, I **(c)** (look over/turn over) my plan. While I'm doing this, I **(d)** (scroll down/cross out) ideas which I don't like and make corrections. After that I **(e)** (read out/fill in) more details. Then, I write the first chapter. When it's finished, I **(f)** (read out/make up) the chapter to some close friends. I ask them, 'Would you be interested to **(g)** (look over/read on) to find out what happens next?' If the reader wants to **(h)** (turn over/flick through) the page, that's always a good sign!

JAMES PATTERSON

– the writing machine

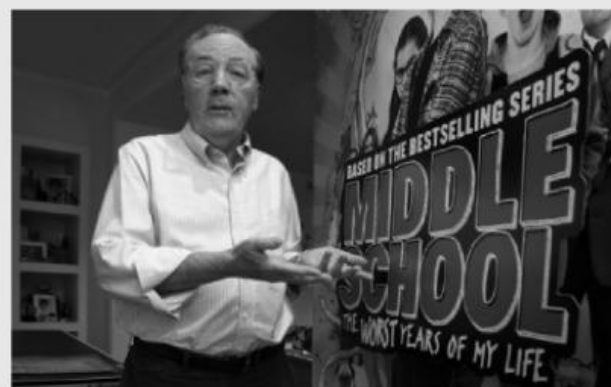
Who's the most popular author in the world right now? Many people would guess that it's J.K. Rowling, creator of the *Harry Potter* novels, popular with children – and adults – around the world. **(a)** There's someone who's written far more bestsellers than Ms Rowling, although you might not know his name – James Patterson.

Patterson was born in the town of Newburgh, about 60 miles from New York, in 1947. **(b)** Since then, his books have sold more than 330 million copies and he was the first author to sell more than one million e-books. In total, Patterson has written about 150 novels and graphic novels and the number goes up every year! He's written for a wide variety of audiences – adults, young adults and pre-teens. What's more, he doesn't work at a computer. **(c)** So, how is it possible for one man to write so many stories?

When Patterson began his career as a novelist, he wrote on his own, like everyone else. However, he gradually realised that his real talent, and what he enjoyed most, was coming up with the ideas for plots. So, now he usually writes the outline of each novel. **(d)** This is what happens in the famous *Middle School* series. While the author is writing, Patterson looks over their work and suggests corrections.

Some authors have criticised Patterson's books. They say their style is very simple and the main characters are one-dimensional. **(e)** But he says that he's not trying to produce literary masterpieces. He wants to make the reader turn over the page and read on. His ambition is to make reading so gripping that you can't put the book down – nothing more and nothing less.

Patterson has said that there is no such thing as a person who doesn't like to read. **(f)** With his easy-to-read stories and exciting plots, Patterson has put the 'right book' in the hands of millions of readers around the world. **(g)** But, in his own way, he's helping people to experience the immense pleasure of reading a good story.



Read the article again and put these sentences into gaps a–g in the text.

- 1 In his opinion, there are only people who haven't found the right book.
- 2 He uses a pencil (not a pen!) and paper.
- 3 He's never going to win the Nobel Prize for Literature.
- 4 He then pays another author to fill in the details.
- 5 However, they'd be wrong.
- 6 Patterson, in part, agrees with these criticisms.
- 7 He started writing novels in 1976.

Match the underlined words in the article to the meanings.

- 1 stop reading (a book) _____
- 2 the type of people who read a particular book _____
- 3 books (which are printed) _____
- 4 basic story _____
- 5 a book which you can read on a computer, tablet, etc. _____

Which of the sentences based on ideas from the text are facts (F) and which are opinions (O)?

- 1 James Patterson is a successful author. F / O
- 2 James Patterson's books are not for people who enjoy good literature. F / O
- 3 James Patterson's main aim is to make a lot of money from writing. F / O
- 4 If James Patterson's books weren't so simple to read, they wouldn't be so popular. F / O
- 5 Patterson makes reading enjoyable for millions of people. F / O

Complete the story with the verbs in the correct tense.

Yesterday, while we ^(a) (*have*) lunch, a stranger ^(b) (*knock*) at the window. By the time we ^(c) (*can*) open the window, the man ^(d) (*run*) away. My dad said that he ^(e) (*call*) the police if the man ^(f) (*come*) back again. While we ^(g) (*talk*) about what ^(h) (*happen*), the man's face suddenly ⁽ⁱ⁾ (*reappear*) at the window. When my dad ^(j) (*phone*) the police, they ^(k) (*ask*) him what the man ^(l) (*look*) like.

Task

Write a story. Your story must begin with this sentence: Holly was walking along the beach when she found a bottle with a message in it. Write about 160 words.

Prepare

Before you write your story, brainstorm some ideas.

What did the message say and who was it from?

What did Holly think? What did she do?

What happened as a result of Holly's actions?

What happened in the end?

Use this paragraph plan in your story:

Paragraph 1: Describe what Holly thought and what she did next.

Paragraphs 2 and 3: Explain what happened as a result of Holly's actions.

Paragraph 4: Explain how the story ended.

Write

Write your story. Use your notes, the paragraph plan, the model on the opposite page and the Writing bank to help you.