



Home **STORIES** Music Movies

STORY SOURCE

Do you have a scary or difficult story to tell? Did you have a scary or difficult experience? Write and tell us what happened.

One afternoon last April, I was at home. I had turned the TV on and was about to watch my favorite show when suddenly, the electricity went off. Then my mom called to say that a tornado was in the area. Where I live, there are tornadoes every year, so, naturally, we had learned what to do at school.

We went down to the basement and hid in a closet. We could hear the storm, louder and louder, and then the walls started to shake. I had been a little scared the time before, but this time I was terrified. After about three minutes, when everything had become quiet again, we went to the kitchen to look outside. I saw that our house was OK, but unfortunately, the house next door was destroyed.

I called my mom immediately. My parents were safe, too. It was a horrible experience, but fortunately, we all survived.

Reading to write: A blog about an experience

6. Look at the picture. What experience is the writer describing? What do you think your reaction to this experience would be?

Focus on CONTENT

When you write about an experience, you can include this information:

- When it happened
- Where you were
- What happened
- How you felt
- The end of the story

7. Read the blog again. Underline the five pieces of information from the Focus on Content box.

Focus on LANGUAGE

Adverbs

Use adverbs to link ideas together and make the story more dramatic and interesting.

... when **suddenly**, the electricity went off.

8. Find four more examples of adverbs in the blog.

suddenly _____

9. Complete the sentences with the adverbs in Exercise 8.

- I had always lived in a place where there were hurricanes, so naturally I knew what to do when we heard the warning.
- We didn't wait for the authorities to tell us to leave when the floods started. We left _____.
- The earthquake was strong, but _____, there was no tsunami afterwards.
- _____ for our neighbors, the forest fire burned part of their house. It was ruined.
- Jeff was sleeping when _____, he heard a loud noise.



Writing: A story about a personal experience

PLAN

Plan your personal story for a website. Use the list in the Focus on Content box and make notes.

WRITE

Write your story for the website. Use your notes and the blog to help you. Write about 120 words.

CHECK

Can you say "yes" to these questions?

- Did you include the information from the Focus on Content box?
- Did you use adverbs like *suddenly* to make the writing more dramatic?