

- 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 <sup>a</sup>when / while I moved to my village. Every day I <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ the same way home from school and every day I <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ an old man. He <sup>b</sup>was / were sitting quietly under the same tree. He always looked miserable and children <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ at him.

During the next few weeks I <sup>c</sup>started / was starting to say hello when I saw him under the tree and later we actually became good friends. I <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ him about the exams I was taking at school and he told me all about the job he <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ as a conservationist. I <sup>d</sup>have / must admit I <sup>6</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ 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 <sup>e</sup>was 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 <sup>f</sup>wasn'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 <sup>g</sup>was wanting / wanted to give me a gift.

He <sup>h</sup>gave / was giving me his special bracelet. He <sup>7</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ 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. ☐