

VOCABULARY

story words

1 A Complete the conversation with the words in the box.

characters ending hero performances
plots show

- A: I saw a good TV ¹ last night.
B: What was it about?
A: It was a drama. The ² was a police boss who was trying to find out who'd stolen some money.
B: What were the ³ like? I hate bad acting.
A: They were good. The ⁴ were interesting, too. We learnt something about the personal lives of all the officers in the team. I only saw the first episode, but it has a good story. It was different from the ⁵ of other crime dramas, which usually tell the same type of story. The first episode had a surprising ⁶ too. I really want to know what happens next!

B Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- My grandad used to read me old **fairytale** / **plots** / **performances** when I was a child.
- A good **ending** / **storyteller** / **TV show** keeps listeners interested from beginning to end.
- The **fairytale** / **performance** / **plot** in the film had some different events to the one in the book.
- There aren't many films where the **ending** / **hero** / **plot** dies, but this one did.
- The film was really good until the **ending** / **hero** / **storyteller**, when it became really silly.

types of film

2 Complete the descriptions with the correct types of film. The first letter is given.

- There was no silly love story and I laughed all the way through. c.....
- It was full of interesting facts about the environment and how we need to look after it. d.....
- It was the same old story. Two people meet, fall in love and do silly things. r..... c.....
- The actor looked just like the real-life woman that she played. b.....
- It was full of guns, fights and fast cars. Boring! a..... f.....
- It wasn't true, but it was a serious story about the relationship between a mother and her son. d.....
- A man had disappeared and no one knew where he was. m.....
- A couple travelled around the world searching for some secret gold. a..... f.....

GRAMMAR

past simple and present perfect

3 A The sentences below have a mistake. Choose the best option to correct the mistake.

- We only walk one kilometre today, but the day isn't finished so we have time to do more.
a We only walked
b We're only walking
c We've only walked
- I'm never seeing anything as beautiful as this view.
a I've never seen
b I never saw
c I was never seeing
- I'd turned the heating up last night, but it's still very cold this morning.
a I turned
b I was turning
c I've turned
- Eri and Pete move to a new flat down the road, so they're our neighbours now.
a were moving
b have moved
c had moved

B Complete the blog post with the verbs in brackets in the past simple or present perfect form.

A life full of films

I love films. I

¹ (see)

over a thousand in my lifetime.

Some ²

(be) pretty bad, but I ³ (not see) a film that I hated. I watch most films online, but I enjoy the cinema, too. Last month, I ⁴ (go) seven times. I still

remember the first time I ⁵ (visit) a cinema.

My dad ⁶ (take) me to see an animation

when I was four. I ⁷ (feel) very excited. I

⁸ (sit) in a cinema seat hundreds of times during my life, but I still get excited like that first time.



PRONUNCIATION

4 2.04 | contracted have in the present perfect | Listen and write what you hear. Include contracted forms where appropriate.

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5 A Read the title of the article. Choose three things that the article includes.

- 1 where to get story ideas from
- 2 the richest writers in the world
- 3 popular films at the moment
- 4 how to plan a story
- 5 ways to write an ending
- 6 the best poems ever written

B Read the article. Match the headings (a–e) with the paragraphs (1–5).

- a Checking your work
- b Decide how the story begins and finishes
- c It's all in the planning
- d Adding details
- e Getting ideas

C Read the article again. Are the statements True (T) or False (F)?

- 1 You should use the plots from other people's stories.
- 2 Your story should only come from things you have experienced in your life.
- 3 It's important to begin by writing down as many details as possible.
- 4 You can sometimes imagine a story well when you draw it.
- 5 It can be helpful to start with the story ending, and then plan the story beginning.
- 6 Noting down lots of points helps you to stop describing a character differently during a story.
- 7 It's important to spend more time on the story ending than the beginning.
- 8 Every reader enjoys stories more when the endings are open.
- 9 The only time you should focus on the grammar is when you read it the first time.
- 10 It's not enough to read your story twice when checking it.

Steps for writing a good story

Not everyone is an amazing writer, but we can all write interesting stories if we follow a few simple steps.

1 It's not a good idea to copy other people's stories, but it can be useful to think about why you liked a story when you think of your own. Was it the plot? The characters? How it made you feel? Or did the ending surprise you? Don't just use your own experiences to imagine a story. Look at and listen carefully to the things around you, too. Watch people, listen to bits of their conversations and read the news.

2 Now you've got an idea, make a plan. Some people start noting down a lot of details from the start, but it's best to write just a few important things such as who, where, when, what and how. Making some simple pictures of the things or people in your story can help you to see it more clearly in your mind. It can often help to begin with the ending of your story and then go back to the start, too.

3 Now you can think about smaller pieces of information in your story. What do the places look like? What are the characters like? What connects them all? What happens to them and when? Keep a note of everything so you don't forget it when writing. It's not good if the hero has black hair at the start and brown hair at the end!

4 The ending of a story might be what people remember, but it's the start that gets people interested, so this is just as important and often takes just as much time to write. When you write your ending, think about how you want people to feel. For example, should they be terrified and then calm, or calm and then terrified? Remember you don't have to tell the reader everything. An open ending lets the reader imagine what happened. Not everyone likes this kind of ending, though.

5 Always leave time to go back and read your story. Read it to make sure everything is clear, and everything you say is important. Then, read it again and think about the language you have used. Are there better words? Or any errors to correct? And don't just read your story twice. Come back to it a few days later and read it again.