story

1 Verb + story

Use the correct form of these verbs:

believe	*check*
make up	*read*
sell	*stick to*

1. He says he was at home at the time of the crime. We'll need to ..... his story. See if you can find someone who can back it up.
2. Your mother will never ..... that story about you missing the last bus. Just tell her the truth!
3. No, I didn't ..... the story ..... . I've told you the whole thing is true!
4. When mum and dad ask us how the window was broken we must all ..... the same story if we want them to believe us!
5. In my opinion, criminals should not be allowed to make a fortune by ..... their stories to the newspapers.
6. Did your parents ..... you stories before you went to bed?

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences with these adjectives:

complicated	*full*
gripping	*same old*
likely	*true*

1. That TV series about a doctor working in Africa in the 1920's is based on a ..... story.
2. I don't think that we've heard the ..... story of the Prime Minister's resignation yet. I think there's a lot more to come.
3. He said he found the video recorder under a tree! That's a ..... story! How can he expect anybody to believe that!
4. It was such a ..... story that the children wouldn't leave until they had heard how it ended.
5. I'll tell you about my childhood some other time. It's a long and ..... story and I don't have time to go into it all just now.
6. It's the ..... story wherever you go – the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. The world doesn't change.

Go back and underline all the useful collocations in exercises 1 and 2.

3 Noun + of + story

Complete the sentences below with these nouns:

moral *part* *point* *side*

1. I couldn't make much sense of the story. In fact, I couldn't see the ..... of it at all.
2. We've all read about it in the papers, but before we make any judgements I think we should hear his ..... of the story first.
3. The main lesson or ..... of the story is that crime doesn't pay.
4. Some crucial facts have been missed out. We've only heard ..... of the story!

4 Noun + noun collocations

Complete the sentences below with the following nouns and noun phrases:

cock-and-bull	*hard-luck*	*success*
rags-to-riches	*love*	*real-life*

1. Lots of companies have gone out of business during the recession. The Green Shoe company is a rare ..... story.
2. I can always tell when Pete is lying. He gave me some ..... story about helping a friend decorate his living room – a highly unlikely story! Pete has never used a paint brush in his life!
3. The beggar told me some ..... story about being cheated out of his inheritance.
4. The film was based on the ..... story of General Patton.
5. He was brought up in poverty in a Glasgow slum, but through hard work and a bit of luck he became the millionaire owner of a huge supermarket chain. It's a classic ..... story.
6. Why do all ..... stories have happy endings?

Notes

1. A story is also a report in a newspaper: *The Times has a story about that bribery scandal.*
2. If we say that something is 'only a story', we mean that it is not true.
3. We say 'to cut a long story short' when we don't want to go into details.
4. We talk about *detective, horror, ghost* and *love stories.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS