

How to write a STORY – KEY



Check your answers. If you are not sure about an answer, ask your teacher.



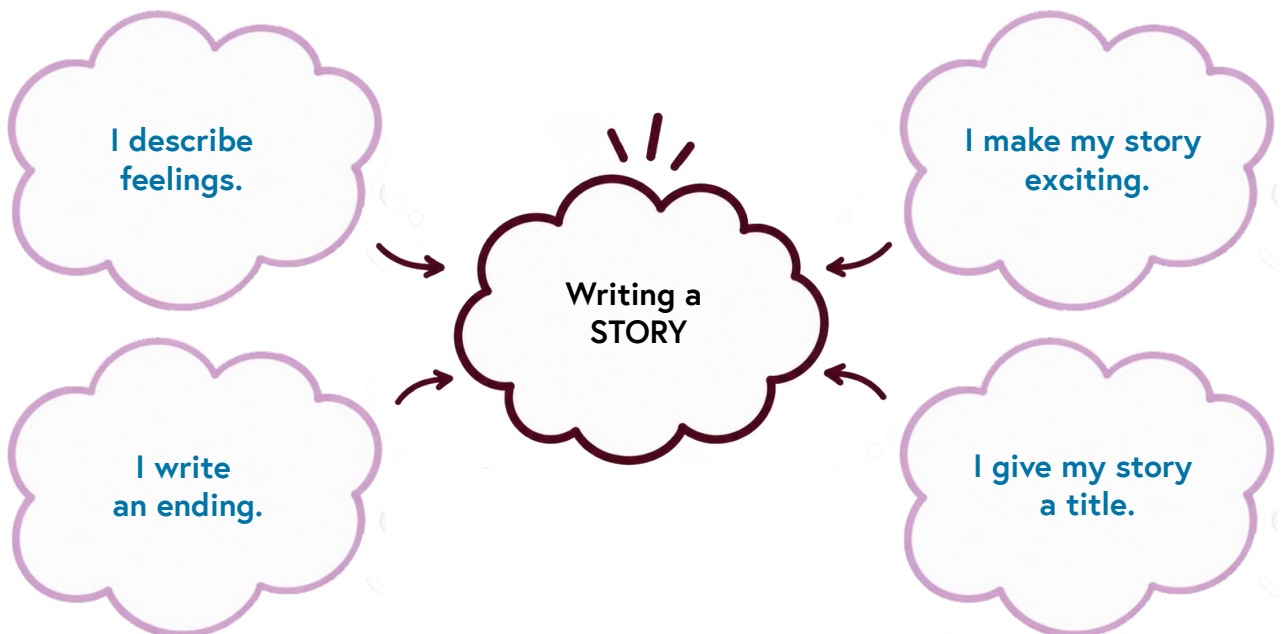
1 Think about stories you have read.

- a. Which of these sentences about stories are true?
Tick (✓) TRUE or FALSE.

	TRUE	FALSE
A story should have a surprising event.	☒	☐
Most stories use past tense.	☒	☐
A story has only one paragraph.	☐	☒
The beginning tells where and when the story happens.	☒	☐
All stories are told in the first person (<i>I did...</i> , <i>I went...</i>).	☐	☒
Stories can include what people say (<i>Megan said: "..."</i>).	☒	☐

- b. What else do you do when you write a story? Write your ideas in the thought bubbles.

These are some ideas:



2

Look at this writing task. What should you do? Tick (✓) the correct answers.

I should ...

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ☐ | explain how to bake cookies and what you need to bake them. |
| ☒ | write a story for a school magazine. |
| ☒ | tell a story about baking that went wrong because of watching videos. |
| ☐ | write about baking cookies and say what you should not do. |

Your class wants to make an English magazine with the best stories by students.

Look at the pictures and write a **story**.



Write around **120–140** words.



3 Look at the pictures (1–5) of the story.

- a. Match the sentences (a–h) to the correct pictures. Write the picture number (1–5) in front of each sentence.
- b. For one picture there is no sentence. Which picture? Write a sentence for this picture.

Write about each picture in your story.

3	a	A short time later, the friends were very busy in the kitchen.
5	b	They were very sad.
1	c	There were no interesting movies.
5	d	Sina threw the cookies in the bin because they were burned.
2	e	“Let’s bake some cookies,” Jedrek said.
1	f	One afternoon, Jedrek and Sina were sitting on the couch in the living room, trying to find a movie they would like to watch.
2	g	Suddenly, Jedrek had an idea!
3	h	They mixed all the ingredients in a bowl and then formed cookies.



1



2



3



4



5

There are no sentences for picture 4.
Your sentence for this picture:

e.g. Jedrek and Sina were watching videos on their phone. Oh no! Black smoke was coming from the oven.



You need help? Look up words in an online dictionary.

- c. Find the sentence that tells you about WHO was in the story, WHEN it happened and WHERE it happened. Underline the parts in the sentence that give you the information WHO, WHEN and WHERE.

It's sentence: f

One afternoon (= WHEN), Jedrek and Sina (= WHO), in the living room (= WHERE)



d. Match the statements to the pictures (1–5).

2	"That's a great idea! Let's do it!"
4	"That was so funny. Play the video again."
1	"I've already watched this movie."
5	"We can't eat them. That's sad."
2	"These cookies are going to be great."



Use some direct speech in your story.

4 Every story needs a good title.

a. Choose the best title. Circle it.

- 1 A boring afternoon
- 2 Baking a cake
- 3 The burned cookies
- 4 The cookie disaster
- 5 A great idea



A story needs a good title.

It can be about the surprising moment or main point of the story.

b. Why did you choose this title? You can tick (✓) more than one reason.

I chose this title because it ...

☐ tells what happens in the story	☐ is easy to understand
☐ is funny	☒ it sounds interesting
☒ makes me curious	☐
☒ fits the ending	

c. Here are reasons why the other four aren't as good. Match them to the titles.

This title gives away the ending, which can make the story boring.	Title	3
The people are baking, but it's not a cake – they're cookies.	Title	2
This title works for picture 2, but did it really turn out to be great?	Title	5
This title only works for picture 1. In all others, the people aren't bored.	Title	1

d. Now it's your turn! Come up with a new title for the story.

Your title: e.g. **Bad baking day, The cookie problem,**

A recipe for disaster

→ Different answers are possible,
ask your teacher to check.



5 Read the story.

- a. Find the parts for pictures 1–5. Write the picture numbers 1–5 in the story.

The cookie disaster | (1) Last weekend, Mira and Josh were watching a movie in their living room, but it was very boring. So, they were talking about what else they could do when Josh had an idea. (2) “What about baking some cookies?” he said. Mira was excited – what a great idea! | A few minutes later, they were already busy in the kitchen. (3) Josh weighed all the ingredients, and Mira mixed them together in a bowl. Soon they were done, and the cookies could go into the oven. (4) While Josh and Mira were waiting for them to bake, the two were watching funny clips on the phone. They laughed about one video after another, until a burned smell came from the oven. | Oh no! All the cookies were burned black. (5) Mira and Josh were very sad as they threw all of them into the bin.

- b. Underline the part in the story that makes the surprising moment clear.
- c. All the paragraphs got lost. Draw | where a new line should begin.

6 Find the connections in the story.

- a. Look at the underlined words in the story. What do they connect to in the story.

Use these words:

the burned cookies – Mira and Josh – video – watching a movie –
Mira and Josh – the ingredients – Josh

a	<u>it</u>	–	movie	e	<u>them</u>	–	the ingredients
b	<u>what else</u>	–	watching a movie	f	<u>the two</u>	–	Mira and Josh
c	<u>he</u>	–	Josh	g	<u>another</u>	–	video
d	<u>they</u>	–	Mira and Josh	h	<u>all of them</u>	–	the burned cookies

- b. Underline more linking words in the story that connect ideas.

Examples: *but, when, ...*

e.g. but, So, when, A few minutes later, and,
Soon, While, until



Connect your ideas
in your story.



7

Now read the story one more time. Write down all the expressions it uses for the things, places and actions shown in the pictures.



Things

funny clips,
a movie, cookies, ingredients, a bowl,
a phone, the bin

Places

in their living room
in the kitchen, into the oven,
into the bin

Actions

watching a movie,
were talking, had an idea, said, weighed the ingredients, mixed them together,
were waiting, were watching funny clips, laughed, were burned black,
threw them into the bin

8

Look at these sentences from the story.

a. Underline past simple in blue and past continuous in orange.

Last weekend, Mira and Josh were watching a movie in their living room, but it was very boring.

Josh weighed all the ingredients, and Mira mixed them together in a bowl.

While Josh and Mira were waiting for them to be done, the two were watching funny clips on the phone.



Use Past Simple to tell the important events in your story and to write about feelings (*she was sad*).

Use Past Continuous to describe a scene in your story (*Mira and Josh were watching...*).

b. Tick (✓) the correct answers.

Which tense do you use in a story to describe a scene?

- ☐ Past Simple ☐ Present Continuous ☒ Past Continuous

How do you form this tense? You use...

- ☐ was/were + verb ☒ was/were + verb+ing ☐ am/is/are + verb+ing

Which tense do you use in a story to describe a feeling?

- ☒ Past Simple ☐ Present Continuous ☐ Past Continuous

Which tense do you use to tell the important events?

- ☒ Past Simple ☐ Present Continuous ☐ Past Continuous

9 Think back to what you've learned about writing stories. What are the three most important things you want to do when you write your own story?

These are just some ideas:

My top three:

- 1** I'll write something about each picture.
- 2** I'll give the story a good title.
- 3** I'll use adjectives to describe feelings.



WRITE YOUR OWN STORY