

PET 2009/2010 - WRITING TEST - PART3

Telling Stories - Sequencing Your Ideas

1 Introduction: set the scene with details of time ,place, and characters

2 Body: develops the plot with details of events and characters.

3 Conclusion Ends the story with the reason for what happened or consequences. Morals of the story

a) We use simple past to describe the main events

b) we use past continuous to set the scene

c) We use past perfect to describe events which happened before the main events

d) to make your writing interesting use Direct Speech and reporting verbs

(accuse, admit, ask, complain, explain, invite, warn, suggest etc.)

e) Description of a person

f) Description of place

Beginning:

Firstly,
First of all,
To start off with,
Initially,

Examples:

Firstly, I began my education in London.

First of all, I opened the cupboard.

To start off with, we decided our destination was New York.

Initially, I thought it was a bad idea, ...

Continuing:

Then,
After that,
Next,

As soon as / When + full clause,
... but then
Immediately,

Examples:

Then, I started to get worried.
After that, we knew that there would be no problem!
Next, we decided on our strategy.
As soon as we arrived, we unpacked our bags.
We were sure everything was ready, but then we discovered some unexpected problems.
Immediately, I telephoned my friend Tom.

Interruptions / New Elements to the Story:

Suddenly,
Unexpectedly,

Examples:

Suddenly, a child burst into the room with a note for Ms. Smith.
Unexpectedly, the people in the room didn't agree with the mayor.

Events Occurring at the Same Time

While / As + full clause
During + noun (noun clause)

Examples:

While we were getting ready for the trip, Jennifer was making the reservations at the travel agent's.
During the meeting, Jack came over and asked me a few questions.

Ending:

Finally,
In the end,
Eventually,
Lastly,

Examples:

Finally, I flew to London for my meeting with Jack.
In the end, he decided to postpone the project.
Eventually, we became tired and returned home.
Lastly, we felt we had had enough and went home.