

Continuous Writing: NARRATIVE

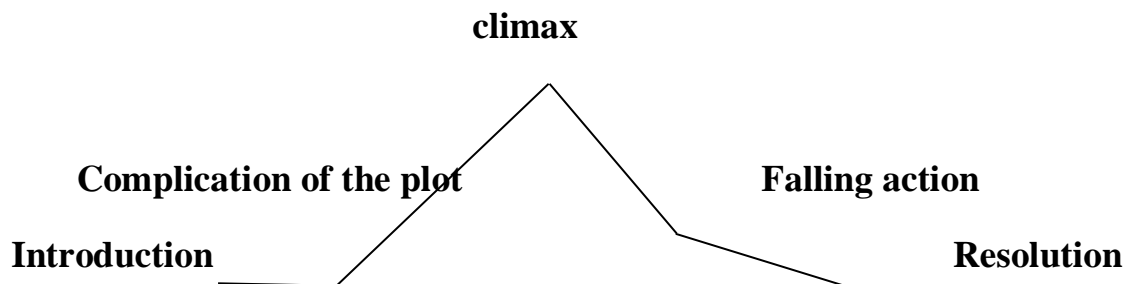
- **Keyword**

The question normally starts with ` Write a story, begin your essay or end your essay..’

- For this question, students are required to write a story. It can be a personal experience or just simply an imagination.

- **Plot map.**

1. Introduction
2. Complication of the plot
3. Climax
4. Falling action
5. Resolution



1. Tenses that are normally used are ` the pasts :

- a. Simple past tense :

- i. It was a very horrifying scene
- ii. The police came to interview me
- iii. It was very emotional
- iv. I could not stop it
- v. Somehow they managed to contact my aunt
- vi. The prime suspects were two middle aged men.

- b. Past continuous tense :

- i. There she was, sitting in the front row.
- ii. My parents and brothers were sprawling right across the carpet
- iii. Blood was oozing.
- iv. My parents were lying on their stomach

- c. Past perfect tense

- i. I had not seen her for ages
- ii. They had had the money since last year
- iii. She had been found guilty by the jury

- iv. I knew that the team had practised well since the new coach came.
- Sentence structures should be varied to avoid monotonous essay. Try to use different types of sentence structures such as :
 - a. Simple
 - i. It was a very horrifying scene
 - ii. The police came to interview me
 - iii. It was very emotional
 - b. Compound
 - i. Someone called the ambulance and police but they were too late
 - ii. I felt strange as my parents left the door ajar
 - iii. They finally arrested, convicted and sentenced.
 - c. Complex
 - i. There she was sitting in the front row, looking at me with loving eyes proudly, as I stood on the stage giving a speech
 - ii. She tried to console me but I screamed so hysterically that I was given a sedative jab and fell asleep instantaneously.

- **Characteristics of a narration**

- i. Tells a story
- ii. Has a theme rather than a topic sentence
- iii. Includes description
- iv. Includes dialogue
- v. Relies on sensory detail for impact
- vi. Follows chronological organization



PROCESS

PREWRITING

STEP 1 : PLANNING THE NARRATION

- Read the question carefully as it has a few parts to consider:
Eg : Write a story that begins with 'I did not know what happiness was until...'
Write a story about a boy who lost his family years back.
 - a. the beginning/ ending sentence eg :
Write a story that **begins with 'I did not know what happiness was until...'**
Write a story about a boy who lost his family years back.
 - b. the setting such as time and place given eg:
: Write a story that begins with 'I did not know what happiness was until...'
Write a story about a boy who lost his family **years back.**
 - c. the character eg :
“: Write a story that begins with 'I did not know what happiness was until...'
Write a story **about a boy** who lost his family years back.
 - d. the situation eg :
“: Write a story that begins with 'I did not know what happiness was until...'
Write a story about a boy **who lost his family** years back.
- Ideas are normally personal experience or simply imagination. Inspiration could be gained from *reading story books or articles, watching tv programmes or simply cartoons, or listening to other people's stories.*
- List all your brainstormed ideas

STEP 2 : PLANNING THE DETAILS

- Arrange the suitable ideas in chronological order
- It can include flashbacks

WRITING

STEP 3 :FOLLOWING THE PLAN

- Include certain techniques to generate interest for the readers
- Write a good description. *Show the reader what happened*, don't tell.
- *Dialogue* helps the readers see the characters in lifelike situation
- Since a narration is not a short story, *aim for a brevity* (short but precise).
Remember, never beat around the bush.

REVISING

STEP 4 : POLISHING THE CONTENT

- Refer to the questions checklist below.
1. Does the story move smoothly in chronological order?
 2. Have I used the techniques of storytelling?
 3. Have I used good paragraphing ; dividing paragraphs appropriately according to change of speaker or topic?
 4. Are my sentences varied in length and structure to prevent monotonous reading ?
 5. If my narration has a message, is it clear?

If you can answer yes to all questions, then you are really on the right track.

PROOFREADING

- Check for grammar usage and mechanic problems
- Check for accurate spelling and word choice . Use of your thesaurus will strengthen your composition. Remember that good strong nouns and verbs can take place of weak, wordy adjectives and adverbs.



MODEL ESSAY

1. Model Essays

Write a story that begins with 'I did not know what happiness was until...'

Write a story about a boy who lost his family years back.

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Introduction | <i>I did not know what happiness was until</i> my aunt's caring words sank into me on my graduation day. There she was sitting in the front row, looking at me with loving eyes, proudly as I stood on the stage giving a speech. She was my <u>guardian angel</u> who protected and cared for me since the <u>demise</u> of my parents |
| Complication of the plot | I could <u>vividly</u> remember the tragedy. It was on a Friday night after my tuition class. When I arrived, I felt strange as my parents left the door <u>ajar</u> . Quietly and <u>suspiciously</u> , I walked into the house. To my horror, my parents were <u>sprawling</u> right across the carpet. |
| climax | It was a very <u>horrifying</u> scene. Someone called the ambulance and police. I was so shaken that I could not stop crying. Somehow, they managed to contact my aunt. She tried to console me but I screamed so hysterically that I was given a sedative jab and fell asleep <u>instantaneously</u> . When I woke up, she was right there by my bedside. I felt safe and secured in her presence. |
| Falling action | After six months in the psychiatry unit, I was finally discharged. I was put under my aunt's <u>custody</u> . My parents were killed in a home robbery. The prime suspects were finally arrested, <u>convicted</u> and <u>sentenced</u> . Despite that, the life of my loved ones could not be returned. "You have to learn to let it go. I'm sure your parents would want you to be alright even when they are not around anymore. God will test those with strength and I know you are strong." My aunt advised me not to keep the hatred in my heart. |
| Resolution | I knew that I should stay focused in my studies to achieve my dream of joining a forensic team. I am grateful that I still have my aunt whose caring words awaken me. She, on her own, replaces both of my parents in every respect. I still do not have the answer of why this happened to me but I know God loves them more. Today, I am celebrating this new happiness- this new me with my loving aunt. Without her support, I would not have made it. Indeed, I am what I am today because of my aunt. 373 words |



flashback

Show the readers what happened.

dialogue

2. Vocabulary

| Words | Meaning (in context) |
|-----------------|--|
| guardian angel | A person besides the parents who looks after you |
| demise | death |
| acquainted | befriend, get to know someone |
| vividly | clearly |
| ajar | open widely |
| suspiciously | feeling of something bad has happened |
| sprawling | lying with hands and legs spread out |
| paralyzed | unable to move |
| horrifying | frightening |
| instantaneously | at that very moment |
| cope with | handle |
| recurring | repeating |
| custody | under the care of |
| convicted | found guilty |
| sentenced | penalised by the authority |

Sample of questions

| No | Question |
|----|--|
| 1 | Write a story ending with: “... <i>we had never laughed so much in our lives.</i> ” Write about you helping a person in sadness |
| 2 | Write a story begin with “ <i>I looked at him and wondered</i> ” Write about an Unexpected Visitor’ |
| 3 | Write a story ending with: “ <i>If only I had been more careful, that wouldn’t have happened.</i> ” Write about an accident that happened at home. |
| 4 | Write a story beginning with : “ <i>I was nervous when the door opened...</i> ” Write about a you visiting your grandmother’s abandoned home. |

REFERENCE

<http://smkmbi.blogspot.com/2011/02/continuous-writing-sample-narrative.html>

Write-It – Right (Revised Edition /2014)

How to Write it Right, Readers Digest (1996)

The Writing Handbook, Prentice Hall

