

# Writing L2WLO5

## A Short Story

Learning Outcome 5: Write short narratives

### EXPLORING WRITTEN ENGLISH

#### LANGUAGE FOR WRITING Writing Short Stories

When you write short stories, ...

1. you give the reader some background information (e.g. the time when the story happens, the place where it happens and who the main person in the story is).
2. you describe the first thing the main person in the story does (e.g. starting a journey).
3. you describe a problem the main person has (e.g. he/she loses something important).
4. you describe how the main person solves the problem and how the story ends (e.g. he/she finds his/her way back home).

#### A Read the sentences from a story. Put them in the correct order (1–6).

- a. \_\_\_\_ She asked, “Is this the document you’re looking for?” and showed Fatima the document on her computer. It was the document she needed.
- b. \_\_\_\_ A woman called Fatima was working at an office in Oman.
- c. \_\_\_\_ When she looked on her computer, she couldn’t find the document anywhere. It was gone!
- d. \_\_\_\_ Her boss asked her to send him an important document from her computer.
- e. \_\_\_\_ Noor sent it to Fatima.
- f. \_\_\_\_ Her co-worker Noor was working at her desk when she saw the stressed look on Fatima’s face. Noor knew what was wrong.

#### B Read the sentences in exercise A again. Answer the questions.

1. What is the place where the story happens? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who is the main person in the story? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What other person is in the story? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What problem does the main person in the story have? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What happens at the end of the story? \_\_\_\_\_

**EDITING PRACTICE Using Past Tenses**

When you write stories, you need to use past tenses.

You use the past continuous (*was/were* (not) + *-ing* form of the verb) to give background information at the start of the story (e.g. *Sara was working for a large company in the city.*).

You also use the past continuous for a situation or activity that was in progress when a single action or event in the story happened (e.g. *She was taking the bus to the university when she saw the animal.*).

You use the simple past for single actions or events that happened in the past (e.g. *She found the book.*).

**C Correct the mistakes with past tenses in the sentences.**

- 1. When I was eat my lunch, my dad called me. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. I maked a very big mistake. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. We wasn't traveling very far. \_\_\_\_\_

WRITING TASK

**GOAL** You are going to write a short story.

**PLANNING A Make notes for your story about the things below.**

- 1. the place where the story happens
- 2. the main person in the story
- 3. what he/she is doing at the start of the story
- 4. what problem he/she has
- 5. how he/she solves the problem
- 6. how the story ends

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