

Narrative Writing

- Aim 300-500 words
- (enough to develop plot + language, not so long you run out of time to edit)

Structure for Narrative Writing
1. <u>Hook/Opening [Short]</u> - Drop the reader into a moment [action, dialogue, or sensory image]. - Avoid: "One day, I..." 2. <u>Build-up</u> - Set scene, introduce characters/conflict, use foreshadowing to build tension - ↳ drop subtle hints, clues/warnings about the event. 3. <u>Climax</u> - Turning point & main event: slow down here with more sensory/emotive detail. 4. <u>Falling action / Resolution</u> - How the conflict resolves; character's reaction. 5. <u>Ending/Reflection</u> - Short closing, can circle back to opening image / state a takeaway (lesson/realisation). - Don't over-explain the "moral".

Other requirements:

- Must relate to the picture(s)/topic given — pick ONE clear image as your anchor, don't try to use all of them
- 1st person or 3rd person both acceptable — 1st person often easier for emotional interiority
- Past tense, consistent throughout
- Paragraph by scene/beat, not by fixed length — vary paragraph length for pacing (short paragraph/single sentence for impact at climax)
- Dialogue should move the plot or reveal character — not filler

Likely Topics / Themes

1. An unexpected / frightening event:

- Accidents, getting lost, natural events, encounters with a stranger.
- Build tension: "screech of brakes," "a chill went down her spine," "my heart hammered against my ribs"
- Resolution relief: "a wave of relief washed over me," "my legs turned to jelly"

2. Helping someone / being helped

- Community service, act of kindness, stranger who helped.
- Initial misjudgement → twist: "I instantly associated him with..." → "he turned out to be..."
- Theme phrase: "don't judge a book by its cover," "kindness costs nothing"

3. A mistake & its consequence:

- Lie, poor decision, misjudging someone/something.
- Guilt vocab: "guilt-ridden," "reproached myself," "a wave of guilt swept over me"
- Realisation: "it dawned on me that...," "too late, I realised..."

4. Facing a challenge / fear:

- Competition, exam, physical challenges, public performance.
- Nerves: "my palms were clammy," "my stomach churned," "I took a deep breath and..."
- Triumph/growth: "for the first time, I felt...," "I walked away taller than when I arrived"

5. A memorable family / friendship moment

- Celebration, reconciliation after conflict, loss/change in relationship.
- Warmth: "he placed his hand on my shoulder," "I have never heard her speak so gently before"
- Tension→resolution: "the silence between us was heavier than any words," "we finally understood each other"

6. Achieving / failing to achieve a goal:

- Result day, competition outcome, disappointment turned into a lesson.
- Anticipation: "my heart was in my mouth," "each second felt like an eternity"
- Disappointment softened: "it will be alright," "we know you tried your best"

7. A day that didn't go as planned:

- Birthday celebration, Oversleeping
- Contrast structure: start with expectation ("I had it all planned out...") → disruption → new outcome

8. Technology / environment-linked incident:

- Used as narrative backdrop, e.g. device malfunctioning, or a discovery.
- Keep description grounded in senses (sight/sound) rather than technical jargon — examiners reward vivid imagery over accuracy of tech detail