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Writing a story

Please note: There are writing homework titles at the end of this book.

sequence

set the scene

departure gate

boarding pass

devastated

(1) It's normal to use contractions when we write a story

Always check!

(2) Linking expressions that communicate 'time' and 'sequence' ideas are especially important.

I was finally off to my brother's wedding. *I'd* never had the opportunity to visit New York before and I could hardly wait. I had a while to wait before boarding so, *in the meantime*, I sat in one of Heathrow Airport's many coffee bars to watch the planes taking off.

(3) Use the past simple to communicate the main events in the story.

Before long, my flight was announced, and *I quickly made my way* to the departure gate. *I was standing in the queue* when suddenly my stomach turned over. Where was my boarding pass? And my passport?

(4) Use the past continuous to set the scene and give background information.

I ran like I'd never run before. In my mind, I could still see my passport and boarding pass lying on the coffee bar table. *I'd left them there* in my mad hurry to get to the gate in time. How could I be so stupid!

(5) Use the past perfect to mention something that happened at an earlier time.

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I burst into the coffee bar and went immediately to the table I'd been sitting at; my documents weren't there! I stood there in silence, *devastated*.

(6) Make descriptions more interesting by using adjectives and adverbs

"Is this yours, sir?" said a voice behind me *politely*.

I turned to see a smiling waiter, and in his hand, a British passport with a boarding pass sandwiched between its pages.

"Yes! Oh, thank you," I replied. "Thank you so much!"

"You're very welcome," he said calmly. "Now, you'd better get going, hadn't you, sir?" I took the documents and set off back, possibly even faster than before. I arrived, completely out of breath, just as the staff were about to close the gate.

"Wait!" I called out desperately, opening the passport at the photo page as I approached them. I looked down at the face in the picture. It wasn't mine.

sum

subtract (take away)

send for

upkeep

finance

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hold up

postal

take up



trend

relation

mental

uppermost

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blond (masculine)

blonde (feminine)

contrast

monitor

attendance

overwhelm

coil

correspond

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umpire

referee

cricket

The role of an umpire and the role of a referee are similar: to control a sporting activity and make sure the rules are followed correctly. A referee generally moves around a lot, as in football and boxing. An umpire, on the other hand, generally remains in one position, as in tennis and cricket.

turnover

The turnover of a company is the value of the goods and services that the company sells in any particular period.

award

scholarship

response

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destruction

existence

virtual

even so

Word pool 1: revision exercise

For each sentence below, choose one word from the word pool that fits correctly in the gap.

flaw	heir	escalator	gadget	maid
flair	dormitory	client	academy	victim
penalty	recreation	bench	napkin	suburb

- 1 Paul's paintings are amazing; he's got a real for art.
- 2 Her biggest is that she doesn't really listen to other people's opinions.
- 3 In those days, the for such a crime was death by hanging.
- 4 The manager used to get very angry if the waiters didn't fold every perfectly.
- 5 Every new electrical Philip buys for the kitchen ends up at the back of a cupboard.
- 1100 6 Rebecca was happy because her new at school had very comfortable beds.
- 7 For some reason, the wasn't working so we had to walk up.
- 8 Ken deliberately put his bag next to him on the so that nobody else would sit there.
- 9 The facilities for sport and that the hotel offers are the best in the area.
- 10 I prefer the they have now; she's much more efficient than the last one they employed.
- 11 It's a lovely but it's too far from the city centre for me to consider buying a house there.
- 12 Mr Johnson is a brand new so we need to make a special effort to impress him.
- 13 As the to a large fortune, he doesn't need a job at all, but he feels it's important to work.
- 14 Why are you defending him? You must realize I'm the in this situation!
- 15 John was accepted by the owing to his impressive exam results.