



MC Academy

JULY



Newsletter

OUR MISSION:
Motivate - Support - Guide



How to write a story



Want to try writing a story but not sure where to start?
Here we take you through a step-by-step guide.

Step 1: Think of an idea

A good way to start thinking of ideas is to read books and try to predict how they will end. Have a look on the [Oxford Learner's Bookshelf](#) for books that you can read which are suitable for your level — ask your teacher for more information.

You can also write stories based on real-life experiences, such as your first day at university, or a holiday abroad with friends.

Step 2: Create characters and setting

Will your characters be adults, children, animals, aliens, or something else entirely? Will the story take place in Manchester, the woods, a local park, on a mountain or on the moon? Let your imagination run wild!

Step 3: The Beginning

All good stories have a beginning, a middle and an end. Think about how your story starts and set the opening scene. What's special about your main character? Maybe it's a monkey who is afraid of heights, or a superhero who can't fly.

Step 4: The Conflict

A story with no conflict can be a bit boring. What goes wrong for your characters? What problems or difficulties do they face?

Step 5: The Turning Point

The turning point is usually in the middle of the story. It is the time where the character

discovers the solution to their problem, or there is a surprise that turns the whole story around.

Step 6: The Resolution

A good story doesn't finish without a final resolution. How is the conflict in your story resolved? Think about the solution to the problems your characters were facing earlier.

Step 7: The End

A satisfying ending is the perfect way to finish a story. What happened to the characters when their conflict was resolved? Were they able to achieve something, or did they learn an important lesson?

Now it's your turn!

Try to write your own story and send it to charlotte.portman@themcacademy.co.uk. The best stories will be mentioned in next month's newsletter!

Finally, if you are stuck for ideas, here are some things you could write about:

- Imagine a giant box is delivered to your house with your name on it. What's inside and what happens when you open it?
- You are given an alligator for a pet. What happens?
- Imagine dogs take over the world. What happens to humans?
- You have invented a time machine. What year do you travel to? What happens when you get there.

Viral Videos

Did you know, learners are much more likely to remember English if they watch, listen and learn through videos? Also, it can be a lot more fun! Find clips that help you to study grammar, a specific language skill or even just to relax or laugh. Below is a selection of three videos that you might find useful on your language learning adventure: a bit of language history, a music video and a bit of fun.

1. Vox - Why we say OK



Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UnIDL-eHOs>

Feel free to use subtitles (CC) if you need to!

Ok, so bare with me here. This video is ok for people who want to learn a bit more about British history and it's ok for people who want to practice their English. Oh, and it's ok for... you get the point. Vox always does a brilliant (ok?) job of presenting the weird and wonderful. In this episode, they look at the advent of the word OK and why it means what it means today. **How often do you use ok? Do you know what the letters O and K stand for?** Give it a watch and see what you think, ok?

2. Arctic Monkeys - I Wanna Be Yours



Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXxmG8EwQSA>

Arctic Monkeys arrived in 2005 with a bang. Assisted by rave reviews and online word of mouth, the band quickly became a sensation in the United Kingdom. What set the group apart was Alex Turner, a singer/songwriter with a biting wit and grasp of English charm. This lyrical wizardry can be found in the song *I Wanna Be Yours*, which is exactly how it sounds. Like all songs posted here, you might find a lot of useful vocabulary hidden amongst the lyrics while learning a bit of Western culture. **Why does Alex use the word wanna? What objects does he use to describe his love?**

3. Animaniacs - Yakko's world



Follow the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x88Z5txBc7w>

Oh the world is a big place - but clearly not for Yakko, who manages to name all (nearly) of the countries in the world in just two minutes! This song comes from an old 90s show called Animaniacs, a combination of the words animation and maniacs. It's as crazy as it sounds. In this video see if you can see: **how many countries did he name? Did he miss any? How many can you say in 2 minutes?**

Not-so-normal News

Rescuing bears from trees? Running marathons in the garden? Learning three languages at once!? Below, you'll find a recent news article that might baffle you or may even restore your faith in humanity.

Man with horse and cart furious after being refused service at KFC drive-thru!



A traveller says he was left 'humiliated' after KFC refused to serve him at a drive-through while he was riding a horse and cart. Ian Bell, 55, made it as far as the kiosk window last week only for a manager to come out and say he would have to leave for the health and safety of other customers. He says he doesn't understand, as his horse Jon Jon is 'as good as gold', adding: 'Horse and carts were around long before motor cars.'

Ian said: 'I had queued up behind some cars and was about to order a Bargain Bucket when all of a sudden this manager came out and said "you're not allowed through". 'I couldn't believe what I was hearing, I'd done nothing wrong. Jon Jon was behaving himself, he was quiet as a lamb – he's a very well-behaved horse.

'In the end I had to go to McDonald's for a Big Mac. No one there batted an eyelid, they didn't say anything to me at all, they just served me my food.' Dad-of-one Ian added: 'I think my treatment from KFC has been downright disgusting and discriminatory against people who use horse and carts. 'The horse and cart is a common way to get around where I'm from.' The fast food franchise has spoken out in defence of the manager's decision to deny Ian and Jon Jon service, insisting the safety of guests is 'really important'. A KFC spokesman said: 'Hold your horses Carlisle. 'We're not looking to 'stirrup' (stir up) trouble and we're sorry for Ian and Jon Jon's experience – but the safety of our guests is really important, so we can't allow horse drawn vehicles in our drive-thrus.'

Ian lives alone in the seaside town of Silloth and Jon Jon resides in a nearby field. The pair often travel 23 miles to Carlisle inside a car and horse box, before setting up the carriage and trotting around the streets. Ian said: 'Going around in the horse and carriage is just something I like to do. It's also good training for Jon Jon.' The 55-year-old, who used to milk cows on a dairy farm, is currently out of work after fracturing his pelvis in three places when he was flung from another horse last year. He said Jon Jon has helped him in his recovery. Jon added: 'I love Jon Jon like he's a member of the family in the same way some people love their cats or dogs. 'If it wasn't for him I wouldn't be where I am today.'

Follow this link to the original report and videos: <https://metro.co.uk/2020/06/14/man-horse-cart-refused-service-kfc-drive-12850165/>

UK Lockdown:

What's changing?



From Saturday 4th July, the Coronavirus lockdown rules in the UK are changing. Before we look at these changes, let's think about some of the important terms you need to know:

Household = the person or people that you live with permanently, e.g. your partner and children, your parents or your housemates.

Support bubble = if you are an adult living alone, you can form a support bubble with one other household. This means that you can visit one other household of your choice and you do not need to practise social distancing from them. This rule came into effect on 13th June.

Social distancing = staying the appropriate distance away from other people as outlined by the Government in order to slow the spread of the virus. At the moment the advised distance to separate from other people is two metres.

Here are some of the important ways lockdown rules are changing **from Saturday 4th July**:

- You can meet in groups of up to two households in any location - public or private, indoors or outdoors. One of these households should be your support bubble. However, you should still practise social distancing with anyone who is not part of your household or support bubble, i.e. keep your distance even when indoors.
- When you are outside you can continue to meet with groups of up to six people, from any household, as long as you follow social distancing rules.
- Some businesses, venues and outdoor areas will be able to open. These include restaurants, pubs, cinemas, hotels, campsites, libraries, community centres, outdoor playgrounds and outdoor gyms.
- You can stay overnight away from your home with your own household or support bubble, or with members of one other household.
- It will be against the law to gather in groups larger than 30 people, except for a limited set of circumstances to be set out in law.

For more information please visit: [Coronavirus outbreak FAQs: what you can and can't do after 4 July](#)



Idiom Corner ..IN

THIS PART OF THE NEWSLETTER WE ARE CHALLENGING YOU TO LEARN SOME NEW IDIOMS! IDIOMS ARE USEFUL EXPRESSIONS THAT ARE OFTEN USED BY NATIVE SPEAKERS.

Here's another **great short video** for you to brush up on your idioms!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R8FUPDWxn9U>



Pets and animals are the theme for this month's video. Where are the animal lovers out there?

Can you guess the **three phrases** from the video in **15 seconds**?

Try to use them in your next class and impress your teacher

Did you find last month's idioms related to **sleep**?

To catch 40 winks - to have a short sleep

To sleep like a dog - to sleep very well

To burn the candle at both ends - to not get enough sleep because of too much work

JOKE JUNCTION

DO YOU KNOW ANY ENGLISH JOKES? SEE IF THESE JOKES BELOW MAKE YOU LAUGH!

How many letters are there in the English alphabet?

Q: How many letters are there in the English alphabet?

A: 18 letters! 3 in "the", 7 in "English", and 8 in "alphabet".

Why did the boy bury his flashlight?

Q: Why did the boy bury his flashlight?

A: Because the batteries were dead!

Why is the letter "T" like an island?

Q: Why is the letter "T" like an island?

A: Because it's in the middle of "water".

Millions of Letters

Q: What starts with "P", ends with "E", and has millions of letters?

A: The "Post Office"!

Do you know any better jokes?...

Send them into harrylhargreaves@gmail.com and we'll show them in next month's newsletter!

Star Students & AP



"I'd like to put forward **Sara Murad** from EAP.

Sara has quickly adapted to the pace of the class despite jumping in mid-course. She has been consistently punctual and shown her understanding and use of complex academic structures and language. She is an asset to the school and I hope she keeps up the hard work.

Well done so far, Sara!"

Star Students

General English



"I'd like to put my former student forward,
Fawziah Alselwly.

After a disappointing Friday test score, she really knuckled down, working her socks off in class and has now passed the level test to go into the Advanced class!

Well done, Fawziah!"



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