

UNIT 1 WRITING FOR TESTS

Writing a Story About Me



CLUE WORDS

Words and phrases such as *one day*, *now*, and *at last* tell when things happened.

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A **test** may ask you to write a story about yourself. It should have a beginning, middle, and end. Use clue words to show when things happened. Follow the tips below.
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Understand the prompt. Make sure you know what to do. Read the prompt carefully. A prompt for a story about yourself could look like this:

**Write about a time you were surprised.
Tell how you felt. Your story should have
a beginning, middle, and end.**

Key phrases are *you were surprised*, *how you felt*, and *beginning, middle, and end*.

Find a good topic. Choose something that you remember well. Make sure you can tell about the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

Organize your ideas.

You might make a list of details. Then put them in order. Remember to tell how you felt.

My Birthday Surprise

Nobody talked to me.
Felt sad
Doorbell rang
Friends came for breakfast

Write a good beginning. Tell the reader what you're writing about in your first sentence.

Develop and elaborate ideas. Use the details in your list to make complete sentences. Use words that show your feelings.

Write a strong ending. Finish your writing by telling how your special event ended.

Check your work. Make changes if you need to.

See how the personal story below follows the prompt. It shows the correct order of events. Details show what happened.

	One day, my family had a great surprise for me.	1
	When I woke up on my birthday morning, I went to the kitchen. My family was there, but nobody talked to me.	2
3	I felt awfully sad. Then the doorbell rang and rang.	4
	All my friends came to have breakfast with me!	
	My surprise party was the most fun I ever had!	5

1. The first sentence organizes the entire piece.
2. The writer uses complete sentences to show ideas.
3. The writer tells how he or she felt.
4. Events are in order, and the clue word *then* is used.
5. This ending sentence wraps up the story.