

# Writing About an Important Life Event (3–5 Paragraph Narrative)

## Level

High Intermediate to Advanced Adult English Language Learner

## Learning Objectives

By the end of the lesson, the student will be able to:

- Write a clear 3–5 paragraph narrative about an important life event.
  - Use appropriate past tense verbs (simple past, past continuous, present perfect where relevant).
  - Organize writing with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
  - Use event-related vocabulary accurately.
  - Revise writing for clarity, detail, and organization with tutor feedback.
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## Materials Needed

- Paper or notebook (or digital document)
  - Pen or pencil
  - Graphic organizer (optional but recommended)
  - Vocabulary list (provided below)
  - Sample paragraph (included in lesson)
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## Warm-Up Activity

**Purpose: Activate background knowledge and build speaking confidence**

1. Tutor asks open-ended questions:
  - What are some events that change a person's life?
  - What is one day you will never forget? Why?
  - Do you prefer happy events, challenging events, or both?
2. Student chooses **one event** they might want to write about (examples:
  - Getting married
  - Becoming a parent
  - Graduating
  - First job

- Moving to the United States
  - Overcoming a challenge)
3. Tutor encourages the student to briefly tell the story orally before writing.
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## Vocabulary Focus

Teach and review vocabulary connected to life events

### Event Vocabulary

- milestone
- achievement
- challenge
- opportunity
- decision
- responsibility
- independence
- sacrifice
- tradition
- celebration
- transition
- memory

### Useful Verbs & Phrases

- decided to...
- realized that...
- struggled with...
- succeeded in...
- learned to...
- moved to...
- graduated from...
- applied for...
- supported by...
- changed my life because...

### Tutor Tip:

Ask the student to use 3–5 of these words in oral sentences about their event.

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## New Lesson: Teaching Narrative Structure

Explain the structure of a 3–5 paragraph narrative:

### Paragraph 1: Introduction

- Introduce the event
- Give basic background (who, when, where)
- Include a clear topic sentence

### Paragraphs 2–4: Body

- Describe the event in detail
- Use chronological order (first, then, after that, finally)
- Include emotions, challenges, and important moments

## Paragraph 5: Conclusion

- Reflect on why this event is important
  - Explain what was learned
  - Connect the event to the present
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## Sample Model Paragraph (Read Together)

One of the most important events in my life was moving to the United States. I made this decision five years ago because I wanted better opportunities for my family. At first, everything felt difficult, especially learning English and finding a job. However, over time I became more confident and independent. This experience taught me resilience, and it continues to shape who I am today.

Discuss with the student:

- Where is the topic sentence?
  - What vocabulary words are used?
  - What makes it clear and effective?
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## Guided Practice Activity

### Planning the Story

Have the student complete a simple organizer:

- Paragraph 1 (Introduction):
  - What is the event?
  - When did it happen?
  - Why is it important?
- Paragraphs 2–3 (Details):
  - What happened first?
  - What challenges or emotions did you experience?
  - What important people were involved?
- Paragraph 4–5 (Reflection & Conclusion):
  - What did you learn?
  - How did this event change you?
  - Why does it still matter today?

Tutor supports with vocabulary and sentence modeling.

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## Independent Writing

Student writes a **3–5 paragraph story** using their organizer.

Tutor monitors and provides light guidance but encourages independence.

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## Assessment & Feedback Activity

Tutor reviews the writing with the student using a simple checklist:

- Does the story have 3–5 paragraphs?
- Is there a clear introduction and conclusion?
- Are past tense verbs mostly correct?
- Are details specific and clear?
- Are at least 3 vocabulary words used correctly?

Tutor gives:

- One compliment (strength)
  - One suggestion (area to improve)
  - One specific correction or teaching point
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## Closure Activity

### Reflection and Confidence Building

Tutor asks:

- How did you feel about writing this story?
- What was easiest? What was most challenging?
- What new words or skills did you learn today?

Optional extension:

Student reads their favorite paragraph aloud.

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## Optional Homework

- Revise the story using tutor feedback.
- Add more details or examples.
- Share the story with a friend or family member in English.