

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.

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)

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.

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.

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

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?

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.

Independent Writing

Student writes a **3–5 paragraph story** using their organizer.
Tutor monitors and provides light guidance but encourages independence.

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

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.

Optional Homework

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