

Prepare for exam success: A2 Key for Schools self-access learning

Writing

Summary

1. Write a story based on pictures.
2. Improve your writing: use linking words (like *first*, *then*, *after*).
3. Improve your writing: check your verbs.
4. Write another story based on pictures you choose.
5. Work with a friend: compare your stories.

¹Getting started

1. Look at pictures 1-5. Use the pictures and think of a story in English.
2. Tell your story to a friend or family member who can understand English.
3. Write your story in your notebook.



¹ Images courtesy of <https://unsplash.com/photos/aDFj86NuvD8>; <https://unsplash.com/photos/ws-gtP79jGA>, <https://unsplash.com/photos/-7AxXbZekDE>; https://unsplash.com/photos/a9JsPbN-R_A; <https://unsplash.com/photos/zBdt7h20v-E>



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4. Read the story below. Which pictures does it describe?

I went for a picnic with my friends. We put fruit, sandwiches and orange juice in my bag. We arrived at the lake, we ate under the trees. Tom and Lucy swam in the lake and Michel and I watched them.

Check the Answer key.

Task: Link your story

Put the missing words into the story.

Last Saturday Then After lunch First When

_____, I went for a picnic with my friends. _____, we put fruit, sandwiches and orange juice in my bag, then we left. _____ we arrived at the lake, we ate under the trees. _____, Tom and Lucy swam in the lake and Michel and I watched them.

Check the Answer key.

Tip: Improve your writing

Do you have any linking words in the story you wrote in **Getting started?**

If not, add some!



² Images courtesy of https://unsplash.com/photos/a9JsPbN-R_A; <https://unsplash.com/photos/zBdt7h20v-E>

Task: Check your verbs!

1. Underline the verbs in the story about the picnic.
2. Think about these questions:
 - Look at the endings of the verbs 'watch' and 'arrive'. What is the difference?
 - How many irregular verbs do you know in English?

Check the **Answer key**.

How to...Use the past tense in stories

In a story, we often use the past tense.

Some verbs are **regular** – we usually add **-ed** (or **-d**) to make the past tense. For example, watch > watched; arrive > arrived.

Some verbs are irregular, for example: put, went, left.

Task: Correct the mistakes

Can you correct the mistakes with the verbs in this story? There are **five** mistakes.

One day, I waked up and it was sunny. I call my friends and we go shopping. We bougt clothes and have a good time.

Check the **Answer key**.

Tip: Improve your writing

When you write a story think about these questions:

1. Did I use the past tense in my story?
2. Did I spell the words correctly?

Task: Write a story

1. Go to **Writing exercises.co.uk** Scroll down and click on:

[Random Image Generator](#)

Use images to help you write.

2. Click 'Press for a random picture'. Press 'New Picture' to find pictures that you like
3. Choose 3 pictures. Use funny pictures for a funny story, or scary pictures for a scary story!
4. Think of a story that connects the 3 pictures. Be creative!
5. Write your story.

Tip!

In the A2 Key for Schools Reading and Writing part 7 you have to write a story about 3 pictures.

Your story should be **35 words or more**.

Write clearly. It doesn't matter if your writing is joined up or not.

Task: Check your writing

Tick ✓ yes or no.

Did you...	Yes	No
write about all 3 pictures?		
write at least 35 words?		
use linking words?		
check your spelling?		
use capital letters and full stops?		

If you ticked 'no' to any of the questions, go back to your writing and try again.

Task: Work with a friend

1. Share your pictures with a friend or family member.
2. Ask them to use the pictures and think of a story.
3. They can write or tell their story.
4. Tell or show them your story.

Are your stories similar or different?

Which story do you like best?

If you like, write what happens next in your story – or your friend's story.



Extra challenge:

1. Ask a friend or family member to send you a picture.
2. Look at the picture. Think of the beginning of a story. Write it.
3. Send the beginning of your story and another picture to your friend. Tell them to write the next part of the story and send you a new picture.

4. Read the next part of the story and look at the new picture. Think of an end to your story. Write it.
5. Share your ending with your friend.

If you like, do this again with new pictures!

Keep learning!

Choose one or two activities to keep improving your writing in English.

A. Choose a writing task from **LearnEnglish Teens**

Try to improve your writing by using this self-assessment:

- Did you answer the question?
- Did you check your spelling?
- Did you use full stops and capital letters?

B. Go to: **Write and Improve**

- Create a profile.
- Choose a task.
- Write 50 words.
- When you finish, click 'Check'.
- Try to improve your writing.

C. Write a journal in English every day. You could write about:

- What you did
- What you ate
- How you felt
- The best/worst thing about your day.

D. Do **this activity** to practise irregular past tense verbs in English.

Good luck and keep learning!



Answer key

Getting started – Answers

5. Which pictures does the story describe?

I went for a picnic with my friends. We put fruit, **sandwiches** [Picture 2] and orange juice in my bag. We arrived at the lake, **we ate under the trees** [Picture 3]. Tom and Lucy **swam in the lake** [picture 5] and Michel and I watched them.

Task: Link your story - Answers

Last Saturday, I went for a picnic with my friends. **First**, we put fruit, sandwiches and orange juice in my bag, then we left. **When** we arrived at the lake, we ate under the trees. **After lunch**, Tom and Lucy swam in the lake and Michel and I watched them.

Task: Check your verbs! – Answers

Underline the verbs in the story

Last Saturday, I went for a picnic with my friends. **First**, we put fruit, sandwiches and orange juice in my bag, then we left. **When** we arrived at the lake, we ate under the trees. **After lunch**, Tom and Lucy swam in the lake and Michel and I watched them.

Regular verbs

Rule	Examples
Add -ed to most regular verbs	Watch > watched
Add -d to regular verbs that end in 'e'	Arrive > arrived Like > liked

Find out more about how to spell regular past simple verbs in English on the **British Council website**. Follow the **link** and scroll down the page to **this table** to check your irregular verbs.

Task: Correct the mistakes – Answers

One day, I ~~waked~~ **woke** up and it was sunny. I ~~call~~ **called** my friends and we ~~go~~ **went** shopping. We ~~bought~~ **bought** clothes and ~~have~~ **had** a good time.