

How to start a story

- 1) **"Once upon a time"**...Or with a twist: "Once upon a particularly terrifying time..."
- 2) **"One day..."** Or perhaps "One gloomy day..." "One sunny day..."
- 3) With **direct speech**- e.g. "Hurry up," yelled Mum, "the taxi will be here any minute..."
- 4) **Starting with a question.** E.g. "Have you ever wondered why belly button fluff is always blue?"
- 5) **How about a sound effect?** E.g. "Eeeeeek," went the brakes as the car skidded sideways.
- 6) **Go straight into the action.** e.g. " A vicious right hook caught me just above the eye."
- 7) **Characters can introduce themselves** e.g. " Hello, my name is Sid. I've got a brain like a computer and a photographic memory. I've been following you now for three weeks, two days, seven hours and thirty-two minutes."
- 8) **Start with a statement** e.g. " Michael was miserable."
- 9) **A description of a place, a character or a smell can be a good place to start.**
" The acrid smell of smoke drifted towards me."
- 10) **Time can start a story** e.g. "It was midnight..." Or "The clocks struck thirteen."
- 11) **Weather?** "The rain came down like a hail of bullets on the roof of our car."
- 12) **Flashback** e.g. "As I wondered the lonely cliff path my mind went back twenty years to that terrible stormy night when my life changed forever."