A2 Key · Writing Part 7: the three-picture story

A2 Key strategy notes; invented examples, not official Cambridge items.

You are the speech bubbles

The pictures are a **comic** with no speech bubbles. You are the bubbles.

- A story of at least 35 words from three pictures.
- Cover all three pictures; the past tenses and **connectors** carry the marks.

The story machine

Name the pictures: a rainy street — a broken umbrella — a warm shop.

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One or two sentences per picture, past simple, in order.

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Add one feeling per picture: cold, worried, happy.

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Add **connectors**: suddenly, then, luckily, finally.

The model story

The broken umbrella

It was raining hard, and Tom was walking to school.

Suddenly, his umbrella broke in the wind! He was cold and wet.

Luckily, a small café was open, so he went in and had a hot chocolate. He arrived at school late, but happy.

Your turn: the drift

Your turn

In a past-tense story: "He was cold, so he ____ into the café."

A. goes
B. went
C. is going
D. will go

The tense toolkit

Tool	Job in the story
past simple	the events: his umbrella broke
past continuous	the background: it was raining
a feeling adjective	cold, wet, worried, happy
a connector	suddenly, then, luckily, finally

Your turn: the third picture

Your turn

Why do students lose marks on picture 3?

A. Picture 3 is harder.

B. They spent too long on picture 1, and picture 3 gets one sad sentence.

C. Picture 3 needs the future tense.

D. Picture 3 is optional.

Narrate, don't describe

describing — no story

There is a boy. He has an umbrella.

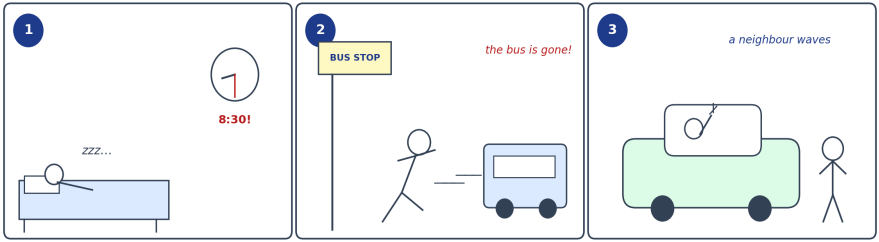
A photograph with words.

narrating — the story moves

It was raining. His umbrella broke. He found a café.

Events, in order, in the past.

Try it: the three pictures



- Name each picture before writing: bed and late clock, bus stop, the neighbour's car.
- One picture, one moment: the story moves bed → stop → car. Write 35+ words.

The model — check yours

1. **The beginning** Jack woke up late and felt terrible.
2. **The middle** He ran to the bus stop, but the bus was just leaving, and the driver didn't see him.
3. **The ending** Luckily, his neighbour saw him and drove him to school. Jack was on time — and very **grateful**.

Decision

A beginning, a middle, an end, and one feeling per picture.

Check yourself

- 35 words minimum; the model is 36 — just over. Add one detail to be safe.
- The story lives in the past: went, broke, found.
- It was raining: one background line upgrades the story.
- Equal lines per picture: the ending carries marks.