

fourteen writing

how to ... write a story

1 generating ideas

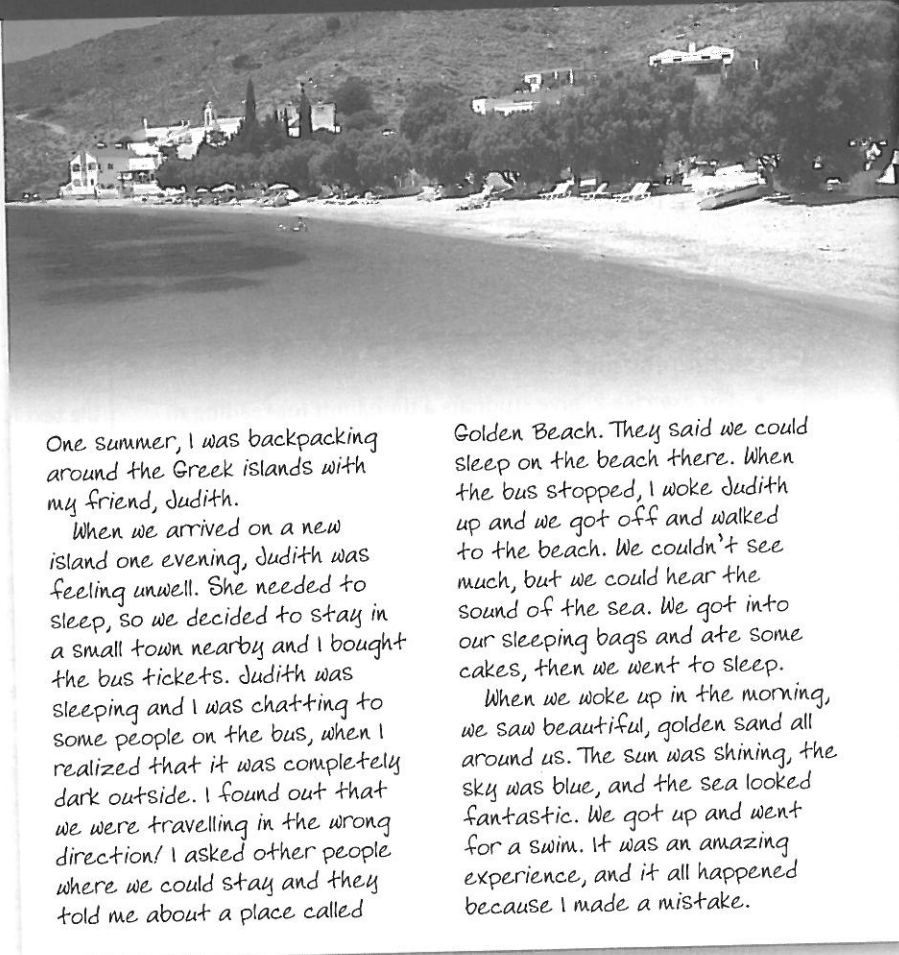
- a You are going to write a story about a journey ending with the words: *It was an amazing experience, and it all happened because ...*. Think of some ideas for your story. Use these questions to help you.
- 1 Where did the journey take place?
 - 2 What kind of journey was it?
 - 3 What happened?
 - 4 Why did it happen?
 - 5 Why was it an amazing experience?
- b Read the story opposite and answer the questions in **exercise 1a** with a partner.

2 focusing on the sequence of events

- a Read sentences (1–4) from the story. They contain actions linked by *and* or *when*. Answer questions (a–c) for each sentence.
- 1 Judith was sleeping and I was chatting to some people ...
 - 2 I was chatting to some people on the bus, when I realized that it was completely dark outside ...
 - 3 When the bus stopped, I woke Judith up ...
 - 4 When we woke up in the morning, we saw beautiful, golden sand ...
- a Did the actions happen at the same time?
- b Did they happen one after the other?
- c Did one interrupt the other? How do you know?
- b Discuss your ideas with a partner then check by reading the **tip**.

We can use the past simple and past continuous to show **when** different actions happen. We can also use *and* and *when* to make the order of these actions clear.

- tip**
- a past continuous + *and* + past continuous
= at the same time
- b *when* + past simple + past simple
= one after the other
- c past continuous + *when* + past simple
= a longer action (or state) interrupted by a shorter action



One summer, I was backpacking around the Greek islands with my friend, Judith.

When we arrived on a new island one evening, Judith was feeling unwell. She needed to sleep, so we decided to stay in a small town nearby and I bought the bus tickets. Judith was sleeping and I was chatting to some people on the bus, when I realized that it was completely dark outside. I found out that we were travelling in the wrong direction! I asked other people where we could stay and they told me about a place called

Golden Beach. They said we could sleep on the beach there. When the bus stopped, I woke Judith up and we got off and walked to the beach. We couldn't see much, but we could hear the sound of the sea. We got into our sleeping bags and ate some cakes, then we went to sleep.

When we woke up in the morning, we saw beautiful, golden sand all around us. The sun was shining, the sky was blue, and the sea looked fantastic. We got up and went for a swim. It was an amazing experience, and it all happened because I made a mistake.

3 using narrative tenses

Read the story below and underline the correct verb forms.

I (1) travelled / was travelling to Edinburgh to start university for the first time. I (2) bought / was buying my ticket, (3) kissed / was kissing my parents goodbye and (4) got / was getting on the train. I (5) looked / was looking for somewhere to sit when I (6) heard / was hearing a familiar voice, 'Hi Alex.' I (7) turned / was turning round and (8) saw / was seeing my best friend, Daisy. We (9) chatted / were chatting about her holiday when the train (10) moved / was moving out of the station. We (11) still talked / were still talking when the guard (12) came / was coming round to check our tickets. He (13) took / was taking one look at mine and said, 'You're on the wrong train, miss. We're going south, not north.'

4 organizing ideas

Organize your ideas from **exercise 1a** into three sections:

- the introduction: Where were you? What were you doing?
- the middle: What happened?
- the end: What happened in the end? How did you feel?



Writing task

- a Write your story for a classroom display.
- b Read other students' stories and choose the most amazing experience. Find out if the experience happened in real life.