



Writing a Story

Exercise 53

В упражнении использовано задание финала олимпиады РАНХиГС 2025/26 для 10-11

You are given a story consisting of six paragraphs. Paragraphs 1, 3, and 5 are provided and contain the main storyline. Paragraphs 2, 4, and 6 must be written by you in order to complete the story.

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General Requirements

- Each paragraph you write must be **60–70 words**.
- The style should be **neutral and narrative**.
- Your paragraphs must be **logically connected** to the given parts of the story.
- All required grammatical structures and fixed expressions **must be used correctly**.

Paragraph-Specific Requirements

Paragraph 2

- Use the **Third Conditional**
- Use the **Past Perfect Simple**
- Include all of the following expressions:
 - *to be in one's element*
 - *once in a blue moon*
 - *the final straw*

Paragraph 4

- Use the **Present Perfect Continuous**
- Use **inversion**
- Include all of the following expressions:
 - *to make ends meet*
 - *by and large*
 - *pathetic*

Paragraph 6

- Use the modal verb **can** to express **past regret**
- Use the **Present Continuous** to express **annoyance or irritation**
- Include all of the following expressions:
 - *posh*
 - *reluctant*
 - *to take advantage of*

Paragraph 1

Oliver had always believed that success came to those who followed the rules. For years, he worked quietly in the background, avoiding risks and trusting that patience would eventually pay off. His life was predictable, almost painfully so, until the day he received an unexpected email that hinted at an opportunity he had never dared to imagine.

Paragraph 3

The offer sounded tempting, yet unsettling. It required Oliver to leave his stable position and join a project led by people he barely knew. Friends warned him that such chances often came at a price, and doubt crept in as he imagined everything that could go wrong. Still, something about the proposal refused to let him sleep that night.

Paragraph 5

Eventually, Oliver agreed to attend an informal meeting with the team. The office was nothing like he had imagined: stylish, modern, and intimidating in equal measure. As the conversation unfolded, he realised that the decision he was about to make could permanently change how he viewed himself and his future.