



## A NARRATIVE TEXT

**DEFINITION** → A narrative discourse is a discourse that is an account of events, usually in the past, that employs verbs of speech, motion, and action to describe a series of events that are contingent one on another, and that typically focuses on one or more performers of actions. Examples of narrative texts include: **Folk stories** (Stories about real or imagined ancestors, often containing supernatural elements), **Historical events** (Stories or accounts about the social and political history of the world and its contacts with the rest of the world), **Mythology** (Stories explaining origins, natural phenomena, or social and religious customs, often involving the supernatural), **Personal experience** (Accounts of significant events in the life of the narrator or the community), a **Biography** (the account of the life of a relevant person) or a **news report**.

**STRUCTURE** → The structure of a narrative text is divided into :

**OPENING/ BODY/ CLOSING**

### EXAMPLE OF A NARRATIVE TEXT → BRITAIN FREEZES IN ARCTIC CONDITIONS

<b>OPENING</b> (sets the scene, introduces the main characters )	<i>The winter of 2010 will be remembered for a long time in the United Kingdom. The whole country from the north of Scotland to the south of England has been paralysed by snowstorms and sub-zero temperatures.</i>
<b>BODY</b> (it gives more details and the main events leading up to a climax)	<i>The country is used to snow and ice, but people cannot remember a winter with such severe weather conditions. Homes have been without electricity and driving on road is very dangerous. A spokesman for the Highways Agency has advised drivers to «really seriously consider » whether they need to leave home. Even the airports have been affected, with hundreds of flights either cancelled or delayed. Thousands of passengers have had to sleep on the floors of airports as they wait for news of their flights. According to one experts, if these conditions continue, food will not be delivered to supermarkets and there may not be enough food supplies in some areas.</i>
<b>CLOSING</b> (mentions the significance of the events)	<i>The government is taking this problem seriously and has set up a group to study what must be done when the country is hit in such cold temperatures.</i>

#### LINGUISTICS ASPECTS

- \*Tenses mainly used: Past Simple and Continuous.
- \*Use of Time connectors.
- \*Use of verbs of speech and motion.
- \*Events are organized chronologically.
- \*First or third person pronoun forms are used.
- \*The text is oriented around a specific agent or agents.
- \*The narrative is enriched with complex vocabulary to express the main circumstances under which the narrative develops.

#### USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

- \*Last year / week/ month...
- \*Two years ago...
- \*It was a cold/ hot day...
- \*Suddenly
- \*As soon as...
- \*when / while / at first / then / next / later
- \*at last...
- \*In the end...
- \*Finally...