

## Topic: Story Completing

Story writing is a comprehensive item of language testing. By writing a story – completing story – a student can know about his language competence. The student is usually asked to complete a story with some introductory sentences or some concluding sentences. In other words it may be said that he is given a half-completed story. This is enough to draw his attention to a particular issue, but the ending is left vague, so that responses can be varied. At this moment what he should do is to think of the given prompts for a while so that he can complete it logically and consistently. So story completion is an expanded version of sentence completion. As the name suggests part of a story is told and the respondent is asked to complete it.

### Things you should observe while completing a story

1. Spend some time dwelling on the given sentences. *Always write in positive manner.*
2. Imagine an outline of the story that has the beginning, the middle and the ending.
3. Do not hurry and think for a little moment and then start writing
4. Make your concept clear and bring conciseness in it
5. Make the story or paragraph interesting.
6. Try to avoid negative thoughts if possible.
7. Use one word substitute more in the paragraph to make it short and conceptual.
8. Use common words instead of complicated ones in order to make the story lucid and understandable.
9. Use past tense

Let us look at the some sample stories completed by students in the exam papers.

1. *One hot day a fox was walking through a field by a bush. He was very hungry and was searching for something to eat. After a long walk he came to a...*

The completed story is

*Grapes are sour*

*One hot day a fox was walking through a field by a bush. He was very hungry and was searching for something to eat. After a long walk he came to a vineyard. The vines in it were laden with fine grapes, which were hanging in bunch from tall poles. The fox thought, "I shall have a good many of them." Thinking so, he began to jump but could not manage to reach the grapes. He jumped over and over again, but the more he jumped, the more tired he became. But he did not have a rest. Being frustrated, he kept looking at the grapes with greedy eyes. After sometime he began to jump again but the grapes were out of his reach. When he saw that it was useless to try any longer, he stopped making attempt. As he went away he said to himself, "Grapes are sour and not worth eating."*

*2. In his boyhood Hazrat Abdul Quadir Zilani was going to Bagdad for education. On the eve of his departure from home, his mother advised him...*

The completed story is

### *Never tell a lie*

*In his boyhood Hazrat Abdul Quadir Zilani was going to Bagdad for education. On the eve of his departure from home, his mother advised him, "My son, never tell a lie and don't get frightened in danger." Bagdad was far away from his home. He began his journey in the company of a band of merchants. The way was infested with robbers. After five days, a gang of robbers fell upon the travellers. One of the robbers caught hold of the boy. The gang leader saw it and said, "Let the boy go. He has nothing with him." At this the boy said, "No, you are wrong, I have forty gold coins sewed in my sleeves." The leader asked him why he told them about his money. The boy said in reply that at the time of his departure, his mother forbade him to tell a lie. He could not disobey his mother. Hearing this, a change came into the gang leader. He gave up robbery with all his men. They began to lead a good and honest life.*

## **Exercises**

Here are some common topics which are often given in exams so that students may guess the hints and then develop them into a complete story comfortably.

1. One hot day a fox was walking through a field by a bush. He was very hungry and was searching for something to eat. After a long walk he came to a...

2. One day a lion was sleeping in its cave. A mouse was playing nearby. By chance it ran over the lion's body. The lion woke up and became very hungry. He caught the mouse and said, Thou little pest, I will kill thee. How dare you tease me?"...

3. One day Abul Khaier was grazing the cattle along the railway track. Suddenly he saw some problems in the track. He found that both the rails of the track are cut off for about 15 feet. Even the sleepers at that point had been removed...

4. Once upon a time an unemployed young man lived in the capital city of Bangladesh. After obtaining master degree from a university he began to try to get a job. Trying for a few months and being failure in every step he became frustrated. As a result he could not feel comfort anything. One day he decided that he would leave.

5. There lived two friends in a certain village. They were very fond of traveling. They liked to enjoy the beauty of nature, to see green trees, blue seas and to hear the sweet songs of birds. One day they went to a forest for traveling. They were walking along with the path of the forest. One time they entered the deep forest...

6. Once upon a time an unemployed young man lived in the capital city of Bangladesh. After obtaining master degree from a university he began to try to get a job. Trying for a few months and being failure in every step he became frustrated. As a result he could not feel comfort anything. One day he decided that he would leave...

7. Sheikh Saadi was going to Bagdad with a group of rich merchants. He had a buddle of books and some money with him. The merchants had their goods and a lot of money...

8. Once there was a king. The king was very fond of knowing his future from the astrologer. A good astrologer...

9. In his boyhood Hazrat Abdul Quadir Zilani was going to Bagdad for education. On the eve of his deparature from home, his moth...

10. Mr Ahmed just completed his graduation. He has not got any job yet. Some

of his friends serve in Dhaka. So he came to Dhaka with a hope that his friends would help him in getting a job...

11. There lived a poor farmer in a village. He had a son called Kamal. Kamal was a very meritorious boy. He studied in his village school. Although he was the son of a poor farmer, he always dreamt of having higher education from his boyhood. Being a poor farmer his father could hardly bear the expenses of his education. Moreover, he had to help his father in the field. Yet he passed the SSC Examination in the...

12. There was a big pond in a certain village. It was filled to brim with water. Many dogs took their shelter in the pond. Some of them...

13. Once there lived a middle aged woman named Bilkis. She had three sons. Her husband was very lazy and did not do any work. None but she had to work all day long to earn money for the family. One day she met a group of people who came to her village from the Grameen bank. They said that they were interested in helping the poor people, the landless and the helpless. She learned from them that ...

14. Giashuddin Azam Shah was the ruler of Bengal. He was a kind and just ruler. He was very much fond of archery. One day when he was practicing archery, all on a sudden his arrow missed its target and pierced into the breast of a young boy who died instantly. The boy was the son of a widow. She went to the...

15. It was a winter morning. Cold wind was blowing heavily. A farmer was going to his field. He found a snake half dead...

16. Once there lived a good number of mice in a house. They came out from their holes or nests at night. They hither and thither in quest...

### **Exercises worked out**

1. Grapes are sour

One hot day a fox was walking through a field by a bush. He was very hungry and was searching for something to eat. After a long walk he came to a vineyard. The vines in it were laden with fine grapes, which hanging in bunch from tall

poles. The fox thought, "I shall have a good many of them." Thinking so, the fox began to jump but could not manage to reach the grapes. He jumped over and over again, but the more he jumped the more he tired he became. But he did not have a rest. Being frustrated, he kept looking at the grapes with greedy eyes. After sometime he began to jump again but the grapes were out of his reach. When he saw that it was useless to try any longer, he stopped making attempt. As he went away he said to himself, "Grapes are sour and not worth eating.

## 2. A little animal can save a great animal

One day a lion was sleeping in its cave. A mouse was playing nearby. By chance it ran over the lion's body. The lion woke up and became very hungry. He caught the mouse and said, "Thou little pest, I will kill thee. How dare you tease me?" The mouse begged for its life. It said, "Your Majesty, I am a tiny creature. If you kill a poor creature like me, it will do you no honour. Save my life for this time." Out of pity the lion let the mouse go. Some days after the lion was caught in a hunter's net. The lion tried hard but could not get out. He began to roar. The mouse heard the roar of the lion. It at once came to the net and said, "Your Majesty, please be quite. I will gnaw at the ropes of the net with my little sharp teeth. Then you will be released." The mouse cut the net into pieces with its teeth and set the lion free. Even a little mouse can do a great good to a mighty lion."

## 3. Wits of a boy saved hundreds

One day Abul Khaier was grazing the cattle along the railway track. Suddenly he saw some problems in the track. He found that both the rails of the track are cut off for about 15 feet. Even the sleepers at that point had been removed. He became alarmed at this. He took it as a sabotage effort of the miscreants. He also could picture the devastating caused by such sabotage. So, he was looking around for help. But nobody was there. In the meantime, he could hear the whistle of an advancing train. He became restless at this. He did not know what to do. "How can I warn the driver of the train about the impending danger?" There's must be a way out." -he thought. Suddenly his red shirt attracted his attention. He took it off. Then he stood in the middle of the railway track and started moving

his red shirt from a quite distance. He thought of something unusual and managed to stop the train before the danger point. Later, everybody realised what was going to happen. They praised the boy's wits highly and thanked him for saving their lives.

#### 4. An industrious graduate

Once upon a time an unemployed young man lived in the capital city of Bangladesh. After obtaining master degree from a university he began to try to get a job. Trying for a few months and being failure in every step he became frustrated. As a result he could not feel comfort anything. One day he decided that he would leave the capital city. But he thought more and more about the matter. At he decided that he would not leave the capital city. He tried to get a job, so he was looking over many advertisements. One day he joined in a garments factory. And he was looking over newspapers. He saw an advertisement in the paper. He applied for job in a bank. At last he found a job in a bank as senior officer. He became very happy.

#### 5. A friend in need is a friend in deed

There lived two friends in a certain village. They were very fond of traveling. They liked to enjoy the beauty of nature, to see green trees, blue seas and to hear the sweet songs of birds. One day they went to a forest for traveling. They were walking along with the path of the forest. One time they entered the deep forest and lost their way. At that time a terrible incident happened. They saw a bear coming towards them. One friend knew how to climb up the tree. So, seeing the bear he climbed up the tree promptly. The another friend didn't know how to climb up it. So, to protect himself, he lay down on the grass and acted as he was dead. The bear came near the lying friend, smelt the body and thought it to be a dead-body. As the bear does not eat a dead body, he went away. When it went away, the another friend got down from the tree and asked his friend, "What did the bear say to you?" In reply he said, "A friend who leaves his friend at the time of danger, is not a real friend." At this he was ashamed and went away.

#### 6. An industrial graduates

Once upon a time an unemployed young man lived in the capital city of Bangladesh. After obtaining master degree from a university he began to try to get a job. Trying for a few months and being failure in every step he became frustrated. As a result he could not feel comfort anything. One day he decided that he would leave the capital city. But he thought more and more about the matter. At he decided that he would not leave the capital city. He tried to get a job, so he was looking over many advertisements. One day he joined in a garments factory. And he was looking over newspapers. He saw an advertisement in the paper. He applied for job in a bank. At last he found a job in a bank as senior officer. He became very happy.

#### 7. Sheikh Saadi and the Robbers

Sheikh Saadi was going to Bagdad with a group of rich merchants. He had a bundle of books and some money with him. The merchants had their goods and a lot of money. They traveled without any problem for twelve days. On the fifteenth day, a group of robbers attacked them. The robbers took away all the money and valuables of the merchants. One of the robbers caught Saadi and told him to give him what he had. Saadi gave him the buddle of books and said, "I hope you will make good use of these books." The leader of the robbers became surprised at his word and asked him how he would make good use of the books. Saadi told him to give the books to his children and appoint a good teacher for them. Then they would tell him how sinful it is to snatch away others' money. The leader became repentant and returned all the money and gave up robbery.

#### 8. A king and a astrologer

Once there was a king. The king was very fond of knowing his future from the astrologer. A good astrologer visited the capital of the king. The called him to the palace. The astrologer told something very unpleasant. At this the king got furious and condemned him to death. But another thought crossed his mind before the astrologer was removed for execution. The king then asked, "How long would you live?" He then thought for while for some way of escape. He thought that the king would prove him in a liar putting him to death. With ready wit he said, "The

stars declare that I'll die only a week before your death! I shall wait to receive your majesty where you have been sending me. At this the king turned pale. 'Drive this wretch away and let him not come again' shouted the king.

#### 9. Never tell a lie

In his boyhood Hazrat Abdul Quadir Zilani was going to Bagdad for education. On the eve of his departure from home, his mother asked him, "My son, never tell a lie and don't get frightened in danger." Bagdad was far away from his home. He began his journey in the company of a band of merchants. The way was infested with robbers. After five days, a gang of robbers fell upon the travellers. One of the robbers caught hold of the boy. The gang leader saw it and said, "Let the boy go. He has nothing with him." At this the boy said, "No, you are wrong, I have forty gold coins sewed in my sleeves." The leader asked him why he told them away about his money. The boy said in reply that at the time of his departure, his mother forbade him to tell a lie. He could not disobey his mother. Hearing this a change came into the gang leader. He gave up robbery with all his men. They began to lead good and honest life.

#### 10. Self employment is better than unemployment

Mr Ahmed just completed his graduation. He has not got any job yet. Some of his friends serve in Dhaka. So he came to Dhaka with a hope that his friends would help him in getting a job. His friends received him cordially and managed a room to live in. Besides, they managed a tuition for him and with it he was able to lead his life. But the sorrowful news for him is that he has applied for many jobs and got a few response. One day, he got an interview card from a commercial bank also faced it with success. In afternoon, he got a letter of appointment. He was said to join on the 25th April 2008 as a probationary officer at Mipur Branch.

#### 11. Fortune favours the industrious

There lived a poor farmer in a village. He had a son called Kamal. Kamal was a very meritorious boy. He studied in his village school. Although he was the son of a poor farmer, he always dreamt of having higher education from his boyhood. Being a poor farmer his father could hardly bear the expenses of his education. Moreover, he had to help his father in the field. Yet he passed the SSC



Examination in the first division with letter marks in four subjects. He then got himself admitted into Dhaka College but he was unable to stay in the college hostel, A few friends of him managed the principal to do so. With great hardship he managed to continue his studies there. Fortunately, he passed the H.S.C examination in the first division with the letter marks with two subjects. Then, Kamal became optimistic to prosecute his studies. He became ambitious and appeared in the admission test at medical colleges for M B B S course. Luckily he got chance to read there. After 5 years of study in medical college, he became an M B B S doctor. His poor parents felt proud of their brilliant son.

#### 12. What is play to one is death to another

There was a big pond in a certain village. It was filled to brim with water. Many dogs took their shelter in the pond. Some of them put their heads out of the water and coaked loudly. One day some naughty boys were playing by the side of the pond. When they heard the frogs croaking, some of them started to throw stones into the pond for fun. These stones hurt some of the frogs. All the frogs at once went down into water. But the boys did not leave the place. They remained standing there with stones in their hands. They went on pelting the frogs with stones when they raised their heads above the water. So an old frog raised his head out of the water and said, “Dear boys, don’t throw stones at us, please.” “We’re playing,” said the boys, laughing. “I understand that,” said the old frog. “But the stones you throw hit and hurt us. What’s play to you is death to us.”

#### 13. Unity is strength

Once there lived a middle aged woman named Bilkis. She had three sons. Her husband was very lazy and did not do any work. None but she had to work all day long to earn money for the family. One day she met a group of people who came to her village from the Grameen bank. They said that they were interested in helping the poor people, the landless and the helpless. She learnt from them that Grameen Bank is going to set up a branch in her village. They will provide loan to the helpless people on some conditions. But at first they have to form 5-6 groups each consisting of 5 members. Bilkis has become busy to collect the required numbers of members. As the rules and regulations of the bank, Bilkis has been elected chairperson and her sister –in law secretary. Bilkis is working well as the duties given on her. They have built up a centre as their office. Bilkis started rice husking business. Besides, she has continued a stationary shop. The profit she made was used to lead her and her family. Thus, her worst days were over by two years.

#### 14. The justice of Quazi

**Hossain Ahmed**, Lecturer in English, International Islamic University Chittagong, Cell 01856311979

Giashuddin Azam Shah was the ruler of Bengal. He was kind and just a ruler. He was very much fond of archery. One day when he was practicing archery, all on a sudden his arrow missed its target and pierced into the breast of a young boy who died instantly. The boy was the son of a widow. She went to the Quazi. The Quazi asked the sultan to make the widow happy. The sultan compensated for his guilt and the widow became pleased. Then the Quazi embraced the sultan. He said if the sultan disobeyed him he would have punished him. The sultan also said if the Quazi failed to make he would have beaten the Quazi. Then the two great men became ever friends.

#### 15. Black will take no other hue

It was a winter morning. Cold wind was blowing heavily. A farmer was going to his field. He found a snake half dead with cold, laying by the side of the road. He took pity on the of the road. He took pity on the wretched snake. He put it in his basket and brought it home. He warmed the snake with fire and gave it warm milk and made it fresh. It was all right with it and it got quite well very soon. It began to play with the children of the farmer. For the time being, it behaved well but afterwards it showed its actual behaviour and forgot the sympathy of the kind farmer. One day while playing with the children of the farmer, it spread out its fang and bit one of them. The farmer realised his mistake. He understood that an evil always remains an evil. So he became very angry and killed the snake with a stick, saying, "Black will take no other hue."

#### 16. A clever Cat

Once there lived a good number of mice in a house. They came out from their holes or nests at night. They were running hither and thither in quest of food. They cut different necessary things and even clothes of the family members. The members of the family became much annoyed at the mice. So they bought a cat. The cat was fat and a good hunter. The cat started to hunt the rat. But it was not fruitful. Because the other could not know what was going on. So, he changed his plan. He wanted to frighten all the rats. He started to injury the rats. Then the injured rats went back to its nests and holes. The other saw the result. They became very afraid. By being afraid they all left the house.