

Experimental Stories

Anna/Paul couldn't wait for the babysitter to arrive.

The babysitter was a young boy/girl/teenager who always took the job seriously and got along with Anna/Paul very well.

While the parents got ready to leave, Anna/Paul waited anxiously.

Anna/Paul loved watching her/his parents get ready to go out.

Tonight there was a big dinner party.

Anna/Paul wanted her/his parents to hurry up and go out.

The babysitter found himself/herself humming while walking up to the door.

Was Anna/Paul going out to dinner with her/his parents?

Joan/Bill was administering the final exam at the Beauty School.

One beautician was an inexperienced man/woman/person who had dyed the client's hair purple.

When the haircut was finished, Joan/Bill tried to maintain a straight face.

Joan/Bill always had a hard time with this part of her/his job.

The job required a good deal of tact and sensitivity.

Joan/Bill felt badly when someone wasn't happy with how they looked.

The beautician steeled himself/herself before letting the client look in a mirror.

Did the beautician dye the client's hair purple?

Beth/Eric watched the gypsies dancing at the fair.

One gypsy, an attractive man/woman/person wearing a yellow shirt, waved his/her scarf and pulled a coin from behind Beth's/Eric's ear.

As always, Beth/Eric was entranced by the performance.

Beth/Eric loved watching the elaborate routines.

The dancing was often accompanied by loud music.

Beth/Eric also loved the bright costumes.

The gypsy picked himself/herself a rose from a bush and wandered into the crowd.

Was Beth/Eric afraid of the gypsies?

Kathy/Scott stopped at the women's rights rally on the way home.

One feminist, an old man/woman/person who had organized the event, passed out his/her pamphlets.

During their conversation, Kathy/Scott glanced at the handouts.

Kathy/Scott noticed how bright and neat they looked.

The rally was becoming noisy and crowded.

Kathy/Scott decided to read them later and put them in her bag.

The feminist excused himself/herself and turned to head towards the stage.

Was Kathy/Scott at a women's rights rally?

Monica/Walter looked through applications for a new cleaning service.

The current housekeeper was a sloppy man/woman/person, and was downstairs packing his/her bags to leave.

After the last few weeks, Monica/Walter had had enough of dirty windows and dusty drapes. Monica/Walter couldn't stand a messy house, and she/he often ended up doing many of the chores herself/himself.

The house was very large and had many rooms.

Monica/Walter even dusted, which was her least favorite task.

The housekeeper worried himself/herself sick thinking about finding a new job.

Did Monica/Walter actually like dusting?

Julie/Jason watched the nurse emerge from the operating room.

The nurse, a tall man/woman/person with blue eyes, took off his mask and gave Julie/Jason the thumbs up sign.

Julie/Jason smiled in relief, then went to call the rest of the family.

Julie/Jason saw her family and smiled immediately.

The hospital waiting room was empty.

Julie/Jason hugged her family in joyful relief.

The nurse got himself/herself a soda and walked down the hallway.

Was Julie/Jason relieved after the operation?

Christine/Alexander was early for the appointment at the day spa.

The manicurist, a precise man/woman/person wearing glasses, was straightening his station when Christine/Alexander arrived.

After sitting down, Christine/Alexander wanted to start right away.

Christine/Alexander loved having her nails done.

The salon was extremely bright and modern.

Christine/Alexander was especially anxious today because she hadn't been for a manicure in a while.

The manicurist readied himself/herself for the task at hand.

Did Christine/Alexander do the manicure?

Wendy/Eddie tried to get comfortable since it was going to be a long flight.

The flight attendant, a small man/woman/person with short hair, was pushing his drink cart down the aisle.

When the cart arrived, Wendy/Eddie asked for coffee with cream.

Wendy/Eddie hoped the coffee would keep her/him awake for a few hours.

The plane took off right on schedule.

Wendy/Eddie wanted to finish the book she/he was reading.

The flight attendant scalded himself/herself on the coffee as the plane hit turbulence.

Did Wendy/Eddie hope to stay awake on the plane?

Jacob/Emily sat down to have the makeup done for the commercial.

The cosmetician, a woman/man/person known for efficiency, grabbed the brush and applied some powder.

Jacob/Emily held still as the hair spray was applied.

Jacob/Emily liked having his/her makeup and hair done for commercials.

The studio was crowded with photographers and actors.

Jacob/Emily always thought it was so funny to see how different he/she looked.

The cosmetician promised herself/himself that this was going to be the best makeover ever.

Was Jacob/Emily having his/her portrait painted?

Phil/Barb walked into the office with lots of work to do.

The new secretary was a helpful woman/man/person who asked if Phil/Barb needed assistance.

Smiling, Phil/Barb pointed to a large stack of files.

Phil/Barb really didn't have time to read all those files.

It had been an extremely busy day in the office.

Phil/Barb still had hours of work to do.

The secretary treated herself/himself to a large sundae after finishing the work.

Was the secretary helpful to Phil/Barb?

Mike/Mary was looking forward to his/her bi-weekly fitness class.

The aerobics instructor, a woman/man/person who seemed devoted to exercise, turned on a tape and waved to Mike/Mary.

After the first few songs, Mike/Mary was sweating and tired.

Mike/Mary loved the days he/she had time to work out.

The fitness club was expensive and had many nice facilities.

Mike's/Mary's busy schedule didn't leave him/her much time for exercise.

The aerobics instructor hurt herself/himself stretching after the class.

Did Mike/Mary dislike the fitness class?

Benny/Holly walked into the office building.

The receptionist, an aloof woman/man/person, picked up the receiver of the phone and started talking.

Pacing across the room, Benny/Holly waited impatiently.

Benny/Holly was there on his/her lunch break.

The office waiting room was comfortable and warm.

Benny/Holly didn't have much time before he/she had to be back at work.

The receptionist introduced herself/himself after hanging up the phone.

Was Benny/Holly waiting to talk to the receptionist?

Bernard/Melissa entered the strip club to drop off a parcel.

One stripper, a tan woman/man/person with an engaging smile, took off their shirt and threw it backstage.

Bernard/Melissa watched the show while making the delivery.

Bernard/Melissa had never been to a place like that before.

The club was filled with people and smoke.

The bright lights and loud music shocked Bernard's/Melissa's senses.

The stripper spun herself/himself on the stage one more time as the applause started.

Did Bernard/Melissa come to see the show?

Henry/Karen decided to have a tarot reading done.

The fortune teller was a mysterious woman/man/person who often shuffled the cards while chanting in another language.

As the cards were being dealt, Henry/Karen concentrated intently.

Henry/Karen was very interested in the results of the reading.

There was strange music humming softly in the background.

This was something Henry/Karen had always wanted to do.

The fortune teller shook herself/himself from a trance and began interpreting the cards.

Was Henry/Karen having his fortune read?

Martin/Elaine was in the nursery crying uncontrollably.

The nanny, an older woman/man/person with a limp, wound up the music box.

Martin/Elaine listened to the lullaby and fell asleep.

Martin/Elaine was an irritable baby who cried often.

The nursery lights were low and the room was dim.

Once Martin/Elaine was asleep she usually slept for a few hours.

The nanny congratulated herself/himself and tiptoed from the nursery.

Did Martin/Elaine manage to stay awake?

Donald/Rachel cheered during the half time show.

One cheerleader, a woman/man/person with green eyes, was particularly energetic.

Donald/Rachel clapped when the show ended.

Donald/Rachel always enjoyed the entertainment during the halftime show.

The crowd was joyful and appreciative.

Donald/Rachel was excited for the game to begin again.

The cheerleader sprayed herself/himself with water to cool off.

Did Donald/Rachel enjoy the halftime show?

Keith/Karen listened to the jockey brag about winning.

The jockey was a talkative woman/man/person who took a sip of beer and started another story.

Keith/Karen wondered when it would be polite to leave.

Keith/Karen was already late getting home.

The bar was noisy and dark.

Keith/Karen always had a hard time excusing himself/herself from conversations.

The jockey ordered herself/himself another beer and started talking to someone else.

Did Keith/Karen think that the jockey was pompous?

Brett/Brenda was more than ready to be released from prison.

The warden was a stocky woman/man/person who was making rounds at the other end of the building.

A problem with Brett's/Brenda's paperwork had delayed the date of release.

Brett/Brenda was so sick of the dreary grey walls.

The prison was old and extremely ugly.

Brett/Brenda felt as though he'd been there forever.

The warden amused herself/himself by waiting as long as possible before releasing the prisoner.

Was Brett/Brenda getting ready to spend more time in prison?

Robert/Barbara was a key witness for the prosecution.

The senator, a woman/man/person with a long history of public service, took a seat at the front table.

Robert/Barbara alleged that the senator had been taking bribes.

Robert/Barbara was really nervous about testifying.

The courtroom was silent.

Robert's/Barbara's voice shook often while he/she was speaking.

The senator perjured herself/himself on the stand in an attempt to avoid prison.

Was Robert/Barbara trying to protect the senator?

Thomas/Teresa prepared the makeshift hospital tent for the wounded.

One soldier, a young woman/man/person wearing fatigues, took a drink from a canteen and grimaced.

After hearing the siren, Thomas prepared for casualties.

Thomas/Teresa hated this part of his job.

The tent would probably fill quickly.

Thomas/Teresa knew that the help he/she gave others here was very important.

The soldier shot herself/himself in the foot and hobbled towards the tent.

Was Thomas/Teresa getting ready for more casualties?

David/Donna was ready to witness the execution.

The murderer, a sullen girl/boy/youth with beady eyes, had killed an entire family in cold blood.

David/Donna was going to write a story for the local newspaper.

David/Donna was nervous about the event.

There was a lot of tension in the room.

David/Donna wasn't sure how strong his/her nerves were for something like this.

The murderer hanged herself/himself in the cell before the escorts arrived.

Was David/Donna a television news reporter?

Edward/Eileen cleaned the deck after the fish were crated up.

One sailor, an agile woman/man/person, put away the net and nodded to Edward, happy with the days' catch.

Edward/Eileen anticipated a tasty supper that evening.

Edward/Eileen was exhausted and hungry, as he/she always was after a day of fishing.

The sun was just starting to go down.

Edward/Eileen loved this time of day as much as he/she loved fishing.

The sailor drank herself/himself into a stupor by the time the partying was over.

Was the sailor happy with the days' catch?

Frank/Carol was already in the parking lot when the truck arrived.

The trucker, a woman/man/person, who always drank their coffee black, listened to the traffic report.

Talking to the trucker, Frank/Carol was unhappy to hear how bad the traffic was.

Frank/Carol was worried that the shipment wouldn't arrive on time.

The roads in the area were often very busy.

Frank/Carol couldn't stand sitting in traffic because he/she was very impatient.

The trucker saved herself/himself a couple of hours by taking an alternate route.

Was Frank/Carol confident about the shipment?

Ken/Pam found a sheep caught in the barbed wire fence and called for help.

The rancher, a woman/man/person with quick reflexes, spurred the horse and raced to the scene.

Ken/Pam tried desperately to cut the sheep's wool away from the barbs.

Ken/Pam was starting to panic because his/her efforts were unsuccessful.

The sheep was badly hurt and very upset.

Ken/Pam hated to see the animal suffering.

The rancher lifted herself/himself over the fence and helped free the sheep.

Was the sheep badly hurt?

Filler Stories

The quarterback had decided that he wanted to read up on football during his upcoming vacation.

After some search he found the sports section in the book store.

There were not many books to choose from, so he decided to try another store.

Did the quarterback want to read up on the stock market?

Nicole was reading a copy of National Geographic.

The first article was about an ecologist who studies the effect of acid rain on a river's ecosystem.

The pictures of the deformed fish and dying plants were very disturbing.

Was Nicole reading a copy of National Geographic?

The artist was planning a large oil painting.

He went down to the docks for inspiration.

After a few hours, he had decided to paint the warehouses the way they looked during the sunset.

Did the artist go to a dance club?

Daniel was a statistician on the Prime Minister's advisory council.

This year the statistics on measles were not very good.

Daniel had found that although the disease had once been nearly wiped out, recently it was starting to pop up again.

Were the measles making a come-back?

Jay wanted to do something special to celebrate the last day of second grade.

He decided to give his teacher an apple and an orange.

This was done in the hopes that it would improve his grades.

Was Jay in seventh grade?

Gretchen was collecting worms in the garden.

Her mother had given her a glass pickle jar to dig with, and it was about a third full of worms by lunchtime.

Gretchen's mother had promised her that if she caught enough worms she could go fishing later.

Was Gretchen collecting worms in the garden?

Joseph had been the company handyman for a long time.
He decided it was time to paint the company's car which was getting a bit rusty.
Since the vehicle was out in the driveway, Joseph moved it into the garage.

Was Joseph going to paint his house?

Jean was helping her aunt cook dinner.
The turkey had gone in the oven early that morning and she was making a tossed salad and pecan pie.
The pie was done just in time for dessert.

Was the pie done in time for desert?

Neil stepped carefully onto his front porch.
An unexpected snow storm had hit the night before, so Neil grabbed his shovel and went to work on the sidewalk.
He decided to shovel his neighbors' driveway as well.

Did Neil leave to play golf?

Diane's daughter Melanie had a birthday coming up.
Diane decided she would order her a clarinet and a new dress.
The instrument came on the day before the birthday, but the dress was late.

Did Melanie get an instrument for her birthday?

Richard was glad he was a carpenter because it was time to make some shelves.
With the new baby in the house they were running out of storage space at an alarming rate.
He had to wait to make the shelves until he had time to go out and buy a saw.

Was Richard a singer?

Marsha's week was turning into a complete nightmare.
She was supposed to get married on Saturday, but on Friday she found out that her dress had been stolen, and that the caterer had food poisoning.
Marsha and her fiancé eloped at the last minute.

Did Marsha's dress get stolen?

James had slept late, and he was hungry.
His friend Carl had been promoted to manager over at Burger King.

So he was hoping to get a free meal out of him.

Was James planning to go buy a surf board?

The fisherman locked up his cabin for the winter.
It had just started to snow as he got on the highway.
He turned on the radio to listen for blizzard warnings on his way home.

Was it just starting to snow?

Laura was shopping for a housewarming present for her friend.
She tried to find something extraordinary that an interior decorator would like.
Unfortunately, after a long day and no results, she ended up compromising on a few green plants.

Did Laura buy her friend a stuffed animal?

Charles was an economist for a large investment firm.
He had been correct in his investment advice many times in the past.
So the company president listened to him when he suggested investing in aluminum.

Did Charles work at a large investment firm?

Ernest was daydreaming on his way home from school.
He had decided that he wanted to be a doctor when he grew up.
He planned to start studying a lot more in the future so that he would be accepted into medical school.

Did Ernest want to be a writer?

Rachel was making a costume for the office Halloween party.
She was going as a witch again.
She figured it was easier than wasting time coming up with a new idea.

Was Rachel going to the party as a witch?

Lucy had been excited about/the awards ceremony for weeks.
This year, she had heard that she would win the best actress award.
She was looking forward to finally getting a personal dressing room.

Could Lucy win the Miss America award?

Kirsten wanted to get a dog, but her mother had forbidden it.
Her best friend had a baby beagle that she played with all the time.

Kirsten hoped that if she was very good she might get a puppy of her own for Christmas.

Did Kirsten want a dog for Christmas?

Brad decided to bet on the long shot to win in the fifth race.

Even though the horse was ranked very low, his gambler's instincts told him it was overdue for a win.

When the horse came in first he won a great deal of money.

Did Brad gamble on a football game?

Cynthia wore only black clothes.

She claimed that colored clothing sapped her strength, but nobody believed her.

Her friend Carrie would periodically buy her bright clothes on special occasions, but none of them were ever seen again.

Did Cynthia wear black clothes?

Debbie was washing the dishes when she accidentally slashed her finger open on a sharp knife.

She wrapped it up tightly in a clean washcloth and waited for the blood to clot.

It healed cleanly, and she got out of doing the dishes for a long time after the incident.

Did Debbie fracture her ankle?

Amy enjoyed dancing at night clubs in New York.

She and her friends drove up to the city regularly on the weekends.

By the time Sunday came around, she was too exhausted to do much

Did Amy and her friends enjoy dancing?