

# English Short Stories



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# English Short Stories

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# Story 1

## Surprise!

Jerry and Emma are husband and wife. It's summer, and Jerry's birthday is approaching. Emma wants to give him a present for his birthday, but she wants it to be a surprise, so she must keep everything a secret.

But she has a big problem. If Jerry cannot know about her plan, how does *she* find out what to get him for his birthday?

She decides to use a secret technique. For a whole week, while she pretends to be doing other things, she actually keeps her ears wide open for clues.

However, Jerry doesn't really talk about this subject. A whole week passes with no mention of something he actually wants or needs!

"That's it!" Emma thinks to herself. "Jerry's birthday is tomorrow! I'm taking off the gloves!"

She calls her sister-in-law Mary, and they make a secret plan.

Mary will call Jerry, ask him what he would like to receive for his birthday, and Emma will listen to the conversation (without Jerry knowing it).

The scheme starts out as planned. Mary calls Jerry, and they have a nice chat about his upcoming birthday. Emma listens carefully from the other room.

Finally, she hears what he wants—a pair of sneakers!

"All right!" she thinks to herself.

Full of excitement, she storms out of the room. She was not so quiet, but who can blame her?

She rushes off to the shop and buys a pair of shiny sneakers, exactly Jerry's size. She's very happy. She will get him the present he wants, and it will be a complete surprise!

Today is Jerry's birthday. Emma waits until their special dinner at night.

Finally, the moment arrives. It's time for Jerry's present!

Emma brings in the box of sneakers, wrapped in colorful paper.

"Wow!" Jerry says with a big smile. "I wonder what it can be."

"Open it and see for yourself!" Emma replies happily.

He tears off the colorful paper and takes out the box. He opens the box.

"Oh, it's a . . . pair of sneakers! What a lovely . . . surprise . . ."

Emma notices that something is wrong. "What's the matter? You don't seem so happy. Don't you *need* a pair of sneakers?"

"Hmm." Jerry takes a look at each shoe.

"Well, didn't you tell Mary that you wanted a pair of sneakers?" Emma asks him.

"A pair of sneakers?" Jerry starts to laugh. "I said a pair of *speakers*! You seem surprised. Well, I guess I could use a pair of sneakers too."

# Story 1—Surprise!

## Exercises

### Vocabulary

This is a copy of the original story. Go over it and fill in the blanks with the right words from the box below.

technique, carefully, birthday, shiny, yourself, sneakers, Today, gloves, problem, wonder, tomorrow, complete, However, pair, plan, laugh, subject, matter, in law, receive, wife, scheme, thinks, clues, present, wrapped, until, tears, conversation, secret, notices, what, wanted, Finally, each, pretends, excitement

Jerry and Emma are husband and \_\_\_\_\_. It's summer, and Jerry's \_\_\_\_\_ is approaching. Emma wants to give him a \_\_\_\_\_ for his birthday, but she wants it to be a surprise, so she must keep everything a \_\_\_\_\_.

But she has a big \_\_\_\_\_. If Jerry cannot know about her plan, how does *she* find out \_\_\_\_\_ to get him for his birthday?

She decides to use a secret \_\_\_\_\_. For a whole week, while she \_\_\_\_\_ to be doing other things, she actually keeps her ears wide open for \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, Jerry doesn't really talk about this \_\_\_\_\_. A whole week passes with no mention of something he actually wants or needs!

"That's it!" Emma thinks to herself. "Jerry's birthday is \_\_\_\_\_! I'm taking off the \_\_\_\_\_!"

She calls her sister-\_\_\_\_\_ Mary, and they make a secret \_\_\_\_\_.

Mary will call Jerry, ask him what he would like to \_\_\_\_\_ for his birthday, and Emma will listen to the \_\_\_\_\_ (without Jerry knowing it).

The \_\_\_\_\_ starts out as planned. Mary calls Jerry, and they have a nice chat about his upcoming birthday. Emma listens \_\_\_\_\_ from the other room.

Finally, she hears what he wants—a \_\_\_\_\_ of sneakers!

“All right!” she \_\_\_\_\_ to herself.

Full of \_\_\_\_\_, she storms out of the room. She was not so quiet, but who can blame her?

She rushes off to the shop and buys a pair of \_\_\_\_\_ sneakers, exactly Jerry’s size. She’s very happy. She will get him the present he wants, and it will be a \_\_\_\_\_ surprise!

\_\_\_\_\_ is Jerry’s birthday. Emma waits \_\_\_\_\_ their special dinner at night.

\_\_\_\_\_, the moment arrives. It’s time for Jerry’s present!

Emma brings in the box of sneakers, \_\_\_\_\_ in colorful paper.

“Wow!” Jerry says with a big smile. “I \_\_\_\_\_ what it can be.”

“Open it and see for \_\_\_\_\_!” Emma replies happily.

He \_\_\_\_\_ off the colorful paper and takes out the box. He opens the box.

“Oh, it’s a . . . pair of \_\_\_\_\_! What a lovely . . . surprise . . .”

Emma \_\_\_\_\_ that something is wrong. “What’s the \_\_\_\_\_? You don’t seem so happy. Don’t you *need* a pair of sneakers?”

“Hmm.” Jerry takes a look at \_\_\_\_\_ shoe.

“Well, didn’t you tell Mary that you \_\_\_\_\_ a pair of sneakers?” Emma asks him.

“A pair of sneakers?” Jerry starts to \_\_\_\_\_. “I said a pair of *speakers*! You seem surprised. Well, I guess I could use a pair of sneakers too.”

## Grammar—Sentence Structure

The following sentences are all mixed up. Put the words on each line in the correct order to make a logical sentence.

1. are wife Emma Jerry and husband and.

---

2. everything keep Emma must secret a.

---

3. open keeps For week she ears her wide for clues a whole.

---

4. sister-in-law Mary make plan She her calls they a secret and.

---

5. birthday his calls about and have a chat Jerry upcoming they Mary.

---

6. shiny buys sneakers She to shop and a pair of the rushes Jerry's size off.

---

7. birthday Jerry's Today is.

---

8. dinner waits special at their Emma night until.

---

9. be I can what it wonder.

---

10. I too of guess pair use I a sneakers could Well.

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## Grammar—Questions, Negative Sentences, and Positive Sentences

**Remember:**

**A positive sentence:** Jerry and Emma are husband and wife.

**A negative sentence:** Jerry and Emma are not husband and wife.

**A question:** Are Jerry and Emma husband and wife?

**A positive sentence:** Emma listens carefully.

**A negative sentence:** Emma does not listen carefully.

**A question:** Does Emma listen carefully?

**A positive sentence:** She should keep it a secret.

**A negative sentence:** She should not keep it a secret.

**A question:** Should she keep it a secret?

**Turn the following sentences into questions.**

1. Jerry has a birthday.

---

2. Emma wants to buy Jerry a present.

---

3. Emma can listen to their conversation.

---

4. Jerry needs speakers.

---

5. Emma is surprised.

---



**Turn the following sentences into negative sentences.**

1. Mary has a birthday.

---

2. Does Jerry want sneakers?

---

3. Emma should tell the truth.

---

4. Are they very surprised?

---

5. Jerry wonders what is inside the box.

---

**Turn the following sentences into positive sentences.**

1. Emma doesn't have a birthday.

---

2. Jerry doesn't know about Emma's plan.

---

3. Does Mary help Emma?

---

4. Emma doesn't buy flowers.

---

5. Do Mary and Jerry talk?

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## Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. Why doesn't Emma ask Jerry what he wants for his birthday?

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2. Who is Mary?

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3. What secret plan do Emma and Mary make?

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4. Does Jerry really need a pair of sneakers?

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## Essay Writing

Answer the following questions. Write a short essay for each.

1. How do you decide what birthday present to buy for someone?

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2. Have you ever received a gift you did not want or need? What did you do about it?

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## Story 2

### *Oh, the Horror . . .*

Emma and Jerry like to watch movies. No, actually, Emma and Jerry *love* to watch movies. They have only one *tiny* problem. They never like the same movies . . .

Emma likes horror movies. She likes the fear and the blood.

Jerry, on the other hand, hates horror movies. He hates the fear and the blood. He likes love stories. He likes romantic couples and happy endings.

Emma hates romantic movies. She thinks they are silly and boring.

At first, they don't know they have such different tastes in movies.

Emma comes home. "Oh, my god!" She calls out, "Jerry! You have to come with me to the movies. There is this amazing new movie! I must watch it."

"Which one is it?"

*"The Bloody Ax."*

Jerry thinks about it for a second, "Hmm . . . doesn't it sound a bit weird?"

"Of course not, silly! It seems like an amazing movie. We must watch it." Emma laughs at him.

"Well, if you say so. Let's go for it."

Two hours later Jerry is sitting in the movie theater, screaming. Five minutes later he is running to the bathroom to throw up.

"Oh, my god, Emma. I didn't know this is what you meant when you said 'amazing!' I don't think I can watch a movie like this again."

"It's OK, Jerry," she says. "I guess you don't like horror movies as much as I do."

A few days later, Jerry comes home.

"Emma!" he calls out. "Listen! You have to come with me to the movies. There is this fantastic new movie! We must watch it."

“Which one is it?”

“*Sun, Love, and Hope.*”

Emma thinks about it for a second, “Hmm . . . doesn’t it sound a bit silly?”

“Of course not, Emma! It seems like a fantastic movie. We must watch it.” Jerry laughs at her.

“Well, if you say so. Let’s go for it,” Emma agrees.

Two hours later Emma is sitting in the movie theater, completely stiff. Five minutes later she is running away in terror.

“Oh, my god, Jerry. I didn’t know this is what you meant when you said ‘fantastic!’ I don’t think I can watch a movie like this again.”

Jerry looks at her and says, “Well, I guess you don’t like romantic movies as much as I do.”

“That’s right,” Emma agrees. “What are we going to do? Will we ever go to the movies together again?”

Jerry thinks about it for a moment and then answers, “I guess we would have to wait for a horror love story. You know, a boy meets a girl, they fall in love, and then she *eats* him.”

## Story 2—Oh, the Horror . . .

### Exercises

#### Vocabulary

This is a copy of the original story. Go over it and fill in the blanks with the right words from the box below.

again, looks, Of course, couples, There, laughs, amazing, later, god,  
throw up, agrees, stiff, terror, so, meant, never, can, wait, know,  
seems, guess, together, fantastic, theater, tastes, fear,  
going, weird, silly, Ax, movies, a bit, horror

Emma and Jerry like to watch \_\_\_\_\_. No, actually, Emma and Jerry *love* to watch movies. They have only one *tiny* problem. They \_\_\_\_\_ like the same movies . . .

Emma likes \_\_\_\_\_ movies. She likes the fear and the blood.

Jerry, on the other hand, hates horror movies. He hates the \_\_\_\_\_ and the blood. He likes love stories. He likes romantic \_\_\_\_\_ and happy endings.

Emma hates romantic movies. She thinks they are \_\_\_\_\_ and boring.

At first, they don't know they have such different \_\_\_\_\_ in movies.

Emma comes home. "Oh, my \_\_\_\_\_!" She calls out, "Jerry! You have to come with me to the movies. There is this \_\_\_\_\_ new movie! I must watch it."

"Which one is it?"

"*The Bloody \_\_\_\_\_.*"

Jerry thinks about it for a second, "Hmm . . . doesn't it sound a bit \_\_\_\_\_?"

"Of course not, silly! It \_\_\_\_\_ like an amazing movie. We must watch it."  
Emma \_\_\_\_\_ at him.

“Well, if you say \_\_\_\_\_. Let’s go for it.”

Two hours later Jerry is sitting in the movie \_\_\_\_\_, screaming. Five minutes later he is running to the bathroom to \_\_\_\_\_.

“Oh, my god, Emma. I didn’t know this is what you \_\_\_\_\_ when you said ‘amazing!’ I don’t think I can watch a movie like this \_\_\_\_\_.”

“It’s OK, Jerry,” she says. “I \_\_\_\_\_ you don’t like horror movies as much as I do.”

A few days \_\_\_\_\_, Jerry comes home.

“Emma!” he calls out. “Listen! You have to come with me to the movies. \_\_\_\_\_ is this \_\_\_\_\_ new movie! We must watch it.”

“Which one is it?”

“*Sun, Love, and Hope.*”

Emma thinks about it for a second, “Hmm . . . doesn’t it sound \_\_\_\_\_ silly?”

“\_\_\_\_\_ not, Emma! It seems like a fantastic movie. We must watch it.” Jerry laughs at her.

“Well, if you say so. Let’s go for it,” Emma \_\_\_\_\_.

Two hours later Emma is sitting in the movie theater, completely \_\_\_\_\_. Five minutes later she is running away in \_\_\_\_\_.

“Oh, my god, Jerry. I didn’t \_\_\_\_\_ this is what you meant when you said ‘fantastic!’ I don’t think I \_\_\_\_\_ watch a movie like this again.”

Jerry \_\_\_\_\_ at her and says, “Well, I guess you don’t like romantic movies as much as I do.”

“That’s right,” Emma agrees. “What are we \_\_\_\_\_ to do? Will we ever go to the movies \_\_\_\_\_ again?”

Jerry thinks about it for a moment and then answers, “I guess we would have to \_\_\_\_\_ for a horror love story. You know, a boy meets a girl, they fall in love, and then she *eats* him.”

## Grammar—Sentence Structure

The following sentences are all mixed up. Put the words on each line in the correct order to make a logical sentence.

1. movies Emma watch and like to Jerry.

---

2. never movies They the same like.

---

3. the blood Emma the fear and likes.

---

4. on couples other endings likes romantic Jerry hand and happy the.

---

5. to You come to me the have with movies.

---

6. second about a He it for thinks.

---

7. up five later to he bathroom running to the minutes is throw.

---

8. as I you do much movies like horror don't guess as I.

---

9. do we going are to What?

---

10. know a eats You a girl they love in boy and meets then she him fall.

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## Grammar—Questions, Negative Sentences and Positive Sentences

**Remember:**

**A positive sentence:** Jerry and Emma were husband and wife.

**A negative sentence:** Jerry and Emma were not husband and wife.

**A question:** Were Jerry and Emma husband and wife?

**A positive sentence:** She was happy to see him.

**A negative sentence:** She was not happy to see him.

**A question:** Was she happy to see him?

**A positive sentence:** Emma listened carefully.

**A negative sentence:** Emma did not listen carefully.

**A question:** Did Emma listen carefully?

**Turn the following sentences into questions.**

1. Emma liked horror movies.

---

2. Jerry liked happy endings.

---

3. Emma and Jerry couldn't watch movies together.

---

4. Jerry was very excited about the new movie.

---

5. They were confused.

---

**Turn the following sentences into negative sentences.**

1. Emma was very bored.

---

2. Did Jerry buy the tickets?

---

3. They were surprised.

---

4. Did they go to the movie theater?

---

5. Emma decided not to watch these movies again.

---

**Turn the following sentences into positive sentences.**

1. Jerry didn't want to go.

---

2. The movie was not very long.

---

3. Did Emma go home?

---

4. They didn't watch the movie at home.

---

5. Did Jerry run to the bathroom?

---

## Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

1. What kinds of movies does Emma like? Why?

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2. What kinds of movies does Jerry like? Why?

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3. What happens to Jerry when he watches the horror movie?

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4. What is the solution Jerry suggests?

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## Essay Writing

Answer the following questions. Write a short essay for each.

1. What kinds of movies do you like? How do you feel about watching movies you don't like?

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2. How do you decide what movies to watch if you and your partner/friend don't like the same kinds of movies?

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**Emma & Jerry**

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**By**

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