

# Unusual Locations

Brainstorm a list of unusual locations, where your character could wake up. Don't be afraid to let your imagination run wild! Write your ideas on the lines below and then choose 1 to be the setting of your story.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

# Background Information

Imagine you've just woken up in the unusual location you chose. Answer the questions below to help you build your ideas about your setting and the character you're playing in this story. An example of how to complete this handout is on page 3.

**Where** am I?

(your unusual location)

**Why** am I here?

(your job, an event, a hobby, etc.)

**How** do I know I'm in this place?

(What context clues can you see?)

**What** is the first thing I think about?

(the first thought you have upon waking up in this strange place)

**How** do I feel about being in this place?

(Are you surprised, confused, excited? What emotion makes sense for your character?)

# Background Information

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<p><b>Where</b> am I?</p> <p><i>An alien's basement</i></p> <hr/>	<p>(your unusual location)</p>
<p><b>Why</b> am I here?</p> <p><i>My hobby is chasing UFO sightings.</i></p> <hr/>	<p>(your job, an event, a hobby, etc.)</p>
<p><b>How</b> do I know I'm in this place?</p> <p><i>I can see a pair of aliens playing video games and a set of stairs in the corner.</i></p> <hr/>	<p>(What context clues can you see?)</p>
<p><b>What</b> is the first thing I think about?</p> <p><i>"I did it! I found aliens, but how did I get here?"</i></p> <hr/>	<p>(the first thought you have upon waking up in this strange place)</p>
<p><b>How</b> do I feel about being in this place?</p> <p><i>Excited and not sure this is real</i></p> <hr/>	<p>(Are you surprised, confused, excited? What emotion makes sense for your character?)</p>

# Event Sequence

Complete the phrase in the grey box with your unusual location. Then, return back to the top box that's labeled with a star and write or draw a natural event sequence that would lead up to you waking up in that place. An example is on page 5.



*I woke up...*

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# Event Sequence: Example

Below is an example of how to complete page 5.



*Found a pamphlet about all the recent UFO sightings in my area in an antique shop. Showed my find to my best friend. We read every word.*

*I decided to find the last-known spot where UFO was spotted.*

*I packed up all my supplies—and a couple snacks and some water, too!*

*I asked my best friend if she wanted to come with me. “Absolutely, not,” she texted back.*

*I was walking through a dark, empty field, and I tripped over a shallow hole in the ground.*

*I woke up...*

*in an alien’s basement*

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## Your Narrative: Example

Below is an example text that shows how to use a variety of transition words and phrases in your narrative. All of the transition words and phrases used are underlined. Read the example and then write your own narrative on page 9.

*I rubbed my eyes and looked around. I didn't recognize my surroundings, but I did recognize the sounds of my favorite racing video game. I lifted my head slightly, and on the couch, I saw not 1 but 2 aliens! While they argued over the green car, I continued to look around: concrete walls, covered in a fuzzy-looking plant; buckets of bright purple slime in the corner; and swirly stairs in the corner.*

*"Oh, my gosh," I thought. I'm in an alien's basement! But, how did I get here? The last thing I remember is tripping over that hole, in the field. OK, OK... let me think about this logically:*

*This all started because of that old pamphlet about UFO sightings in my town. One day, I was looking around at an antique shop, when I spotted this pamphlet. The text was faded, and the pages were creased. I only bought it because I wanted to show my best friend, Leah—and because it was only one dollar. After I finished paying for it, I ran right over to her house, and we read every word, including the coordinates for the spot that the last UFO was spotted. The pamphlet only shared the coordinates, though.*

*Later that week, I decided that I wanted to follow the coordinates and find that spot. That night, I packed a bag with a few supplies: a flashlight, a compass, the map—some snacks, of course—and then I texted Leah to ask if she wanted to come with me. "Absolutely not!" she responded. "I don't think that's a great idea."*

*Suddenly, I smelled a strong odor of boiled cabbage. I looked up and was immediately snapped out of my thoughts and right back to the alien's basement. The aliens were slithering over to me—the closer they got, the stronger the smell became.*

*"You're awake," one of them growled.*

*I nodded and thought, "What's going to happen next?"*