



Example Stories: Imperatives

Introduction

How to guides and other instructions. Below are some example stories written using the imperative. Many of these pieces have been included in best-of lists (Best Microfiction, Best Small Fictions, Wigleaf Top 50 etc.). Others are ones I've come across in the course of my reading.

[Consider the Shape of Your Fist](#) (Leah Dawdy | Masters Review)

[The Correct Hanging of Game Birds](#) (Rosie Garland | X-R-A-Y)

[Directions from Birth to Gayhood](#) (Marisa Crane | HAD)

[Dissolve](#) (Santino Prinzi | Moon Park Review)

[Does This Pie Travel Well?](#) (Alyson Mosquera Dutemple | The Diagram)

[A Field Guide to Prehistoric Motherhood](#) (Shelly Jones | Apex Magazine)

[Find X](#) (Grace Q. Song | Passages North)

[The heart first, then the rest](#) (Hananah Zaheer | Necessary Fiction)

[How to Finally Leave Your Abuser: The Psychological Edition](#) (Marisa Crane | HAD)

[How to Get a Message Behind Enemy Lines](#) (K.S. Lokensgard | Cheap Pop)

[How to Get Fired from a Babysitting Job](#) (Sara Siddiqui Chansarkar | HAD)

[How to Obey Gravity](#) (Anita Goveas | Into the Void)

[How to Properly Kill a Fly](#) (Kirsten Reneau | HAD)

[How to Spot a Whale](#) (Jacqui Reiko Teruya | The Masters Review)

[How to Stay Safe in Caracas](#) (Patricia García Luján | Lost Balloon)

[How to Survive the Apocalypse – A Triptych](#) (Martha Grover | Timber)

[How to Take a Vacation: A Guide for Medieval Women](#) (Maria Poulatha | Okay Donkey)

[How to Teach Your Cat to Talk](#) (Francine Witte | Jellyfish Review)

[How to Tell a Scary Story](#) (Sara Hills | X-R-A-Y)

[How to Tell a Story](#) (Hege Lepri | Atticus Review)

[How to Wear Your Eyes on Your Wedding](#) (Mandira Pattnaik | Peatsmoke Journal)

[How to Write Like an Academic](#) (Andrew Williams | McSweeney's Internet Tendency)

[Instructions for Visiting Our State's Correction Facility](#) (Jo Goren | The Ilanot Review)

[Lessons](#) (David Galef | Compressed Journal of Creative Arts)

[Love in the Knots of the Coptic Stitch](#) (Beth Kephart | The Gravity of the Thing)

[On the Outskirts](#) (Karen Schaubert | New World Writing)

[A Practical Guide to Making Rain](#) (Myna Chang | The Citron Review)

[Procedures for Moving House in the Sims 4](#) (Maria S. Picone | Whale Road Review)

[Shadow Broth](#) (Ingrid Jendrzewski | Bath Flash Fiction Award)

[Six Steps to Becoming a Mixologist](#) (Jamie Etheridge | JMWW)

[So You Want to Join The Hopeful Monsters Club?](#) (Emily Devane | Flash Flood)

[Subtitle: 50](#) (Matthew James Babcock | The Ilanot Review)

[Tricks to uproot a guest who has overstayed their welcome](#) (Judy Darley | Tiny Molecules)

[Twelve-Step Program for Quitting My Life](#) (Kristen M. Ploetz | Craft Literary)

[What You Have Been Told](#) (Molia Dumbleton | Flash Flood)

[19 Ways of Crossing the Street After the Old Guy In the Sedan Jerks to a Last-Minute Stop in the Vons Parking Lot Crosswalk and Motions for You to Pick Up the Pace, Can't You See He Didn't Want to Stop For You in the First Place, Lady?](#) (Halina Duraj | Jake the Mag)



ENDNOTE

Bio:

This resource has been created by Matt Kendrick. Matt is a writer, editor and teacher based in the East Midlands, UK. His short fiction has been widely published both online and in print. He has been placed or listed in various writing competitions including Bath, Flash 500, the Oxford Flash Fiction Prize, Reflex and Leicester Writes. His work has been included on the Biffy 50 list for 2019-20, in Best Microfiction 2021, Best Small Fictions 2022 and the Wigleaf Top 50 list for 2022. He has also been nominated for Best of the Net and the Pushcart Prize.

Other Resources:

For links to other free resources, please visit my website: <https://www.mattkendrick.co.uk/resources>

Services and Courses:

Information about my [courses](#) and [editorial services](#) can also be found on my website.



Support me on Ko-fi

As a workshop facilitator, I am committed to opening up writing opportunities to people from all backgrounds based on ability to write rather than ability to pay. However, it is becoming increasingly difficult to finance pay-what-you-can and free spots exclusively from my own pocket. So, if you've downloaded this resource and are in a position to support narrowing the access gap to creative writing opportunities, I would be very grateful if you would consider buying me a virtual coffee*.

**Any money donated to my [Ko-fi page](#) will be used to fund free and reduced-price places for my Write Beyond The Lightbulb courses, as well as to provide free editing and mentoring opportunities for low-income writers, and to support other opportunities that seek to level the playing field.*