

Functional Stories

Version 1

1. The only sounds to be heard were from "Oprah" filtering in from the next room and the dial tone coming from the receiver. Mary hung up the phone and stood there in shock. How could Martin break up with her over the phone like that? What had she done wrong? She walked into the living room, biting her lip as she ruminated. Mary stood IN FRONT OF / TO THE RIGHT OF the television / coffee table, staring in front of her as the talk show was taking a commercial break. She breathed a heavy sigh as she thought of the locket Martin had bought her last month. She had worked hard to find the right picture of him to put in it. She nervously played with it as the tears began to well up in her eyes.

2. David walked along the banks of the river in town. Although the days were unbearably hot, the nights could be bitterly cold. He hugged his thin dust-covered coat around him as he thought about how the travel agent had lied to him. She had said that North African Sahara towns were friendly and romantic. Everything so far suggested the opposite. A steady rain began to pour from the sky. David stopped BELOW / IN FRONT OF an old bridge / lamppost. He listened to the carts moving along the road as he took stock of their misfortunes so far. The townsfolk treated you with contempt if you didn't speak the native Arabic or French. His wallet and passport had been stolen. Maureen and he were shocked to find out how decrepit and dirty their hotel was. Even the coffee they were served was bad. David was sure this trip would bring his troubled marriage to an end.

3. Charlie was full of emotion. He had won all of the baseball awards this season. He had the most wins and strikeouts, and was the unanimous choice for MVP. Earlier tonight, he had just pitched a shutout. It was the last game of the season and his team won, 3-0. Only one batter on the other team had gotten a hit. Unfortunately, it was also his last game. Now the stands were empty. Charlie strolled from the dugout and stepped ON TOP OF / TO THE LEFT OF the pitcher's mound / foul line. He was happy that he had done so well this year, but he was also depressed. A tear came to his eye as he thought about the shoulder surgery and his retirement. He knew that the surgery would end his career, but he also knew of the risks if he avoided surgery. It was hard to walk away because baseball had been his life. At least he could still prey off the glory-starved public by charging for the autographs he signed.

4. Sara was feeling a little down. It was Friday night, and all of her close friends had plans. She didn't want to waste the night sitting in front of the television. Besides, there wasn't anything good on. She remembered that a lot of people had been talking about a new romantic comedy that was playing at the movies. It was an easy decision, and she left for the theater. Sara hurried to get there. She hated to arrive after the movie began and searching for a seat in the dark, so she left early. The movie had not started and the house lights were still on. She was surprised when she walked into the movie theater. Her friend, Trent, was sitting in the center of the auditorium. Sara walked down the aisle and sat down TO THE RIGHT OF / BEHIND Trent's seat / a broken seat. The previews began right away. Sara wondered why they showed previews of Sylvester Stallone killing people before a romantic comedy. She never had any desire to watch Stallone or Arnold in those predictable action films.

5. Tonight was the big night. Nicole fell in love with Chad the first time that she saw him. She never believed in love at first sight, but now she thought differently. She remembered the first day of class. Nicole was catching up with people that she hadn't seen all summer. Then, out of the corner of her eye, she spotted his blonde hair. It was wavy and hung down to his shoulders. He turned around and smiled at her. At that moment, she knew that she was in love. Nicole had never been this nervous before about a date. She walked across her room and stood IN FRONT OF / TO THE SIDE OF the mirror / jewelry box on the dresser. She combed her hair for the fiftieth time. Where was he? He said that he would pick her up at eight, and it was already "8:01".

6. Jill stood outside with her sign. This was one cause that she really believed in. She did not understand how anyone could go through with an abortion. Jill believed that life began at conception, and that an abortion was killing a child. A car stopped in the parking lot and a young couple got out of the car. The other protesters began chanting pro-life slogans. A lot of them, including Jill, stood IN FRONT OF / TO THE LEFT OF the clinic's entrance / sidewalk. Jill could tell that they were having an effect on the young couple. The woman looked worried and the man appeared to be angry. The couple made their way inside the clinic. Jill sat down on the ground and sighed. She was very tired, she had been on her feet the entire day.

7. Paul felt burnt out. Here it was, the middle of July, and all of his friends were enjoying their summer vacation. Paul wasn't as fortunate. Paul's father lost his job when the Ford plant closed, and he hasn't been able to find a good paying job to replace it. Paul was left on his own to pay for college. This summer he found a job painting houses around the city. It paid pretty well, plus he could work without a shirt and get a tan. The house that he was painting today was a quaint, two-story home. Paul liked these less because of his fear of heights. Paul stood ON TOP OF / UNDER a ladder / tree branch while painting around a window. Before this summer, Paul had not done much painting. Now, he thought that he wasn't too bad. If he could overcome the feelings of vertigo, this skill could come in handy if he wasn't able to finish college.

8. It was quiet now. Frank could no longer hear any gunfire or explosions. The battle had been a bloody massacre. Unfortunately, it was the enemy that was victorious today. Here he was, an American soldier, in the middle of a Central American jungle all by himself. Everyone with him had been killed. Frank was wounded, but the bullet had only grazed his left shoulder. Because of all of the commotion, he wasn't sure if the enemy had moved on, and if they did, in what direction. He knew that there was a river about ten miles south, so he decided to head in that direction. After walking for a couple of hours, he saw some people with guns ahead. He was close enough to hear them. He recognized that they were speaking Spanish. Frank stepped BEHIND / NEXT TO a large tree / a vine. Frank did not want to be discovered. He did not have much ammo with him. Frank sat down and searched his pockets for some gum.

9. Shelly was ecstatic. She finally accumulated enough vacation days to spend two weeks at a ski resort. When she was in college, she went skiing at least two or three times a year. Now that she was working, there just wasn't any time available for skiing. As soon as she arrived at the resort, she checked

into a room. Shelly didn't even unpack; she wanted to head right for the slopes. She grabbed her skis and was ready to go. As she stood at the TOP OF / BOTTOM OF the hill / a snowdrift, she became really excited. She missed the sensation of accelerating down the hill. She loved to descend at high speeds, and to swerve around the trees. She could feel the wind against her face. She made a promise to herself, that every winter she would make time to come here.

10. Zack was trying to visualize himself. Before each dive, he would picture himself diving off of the platform and executing the dive perfectly. He wasn't sure how much it really helped him, but, like most athletes, he was superstitious. Besides, he was now competing in the Olympics, and he wasn't going to change anything now. He heard the splash from another diver, and it was almost time for his dive. The judges presented the scores for his competitor. They were almost perfect. To win the gold, Zack knew that he would have to be flawless. He stood AT THE EDGE OF / TO THE RIGHT OF the platform / pool. He tried to visualize the dive again. It was perfect in his mind. Before he began the dive, he visualized something else. He pictured himself standing with the gold around his neck, and his national anthem playing over the speakers. It was that lack of concentration that screwed everything up.

11. Kim was pretty confident that all of the murders were related. There were four murders in the past two months that resembled each other. All of the victims were young women who had been jogging or walking in the woods. The killer's weapon was a knife and he placed the bodies in front of an isolated tree. Kim received a call that another body had been found in the woods. She left immediately to investigate the crime scene. When she arrived, she was happy to see that the media wasn't there yet. Reporters were so annoying. Kim walked over to see the body. The woman was in front of a tree and lying in a pile of leaves. As she examined the body, Kim could see that she had been stabbed repeatedly. There was a knife IN / NEXT TO her chest / the pile of leaves. An officer told Kim that he found fingerprints on the knife. She told him to get the prints analyzed as soon as possible. She was hoping that the killer had a criminal record, so that they could trace his fingerprints.

12. The waiting room was empty. Vicki wasn't sure if that was good or bad. It was good because it would be over sooner, but it was bad because she wasn't ready yet. She picked up a magazine and flipped through it. She always hated visits to the dentist. Her past couple haven't been too bad, because she hasn't had any cavities for a couple of years. She hoped that her luck would continue. After a couple of minutes, the dentist called her in. She sat down in the chair as the dentist examined her teeth. Unfortunately, he found a cavity. He prepared the filling, and reached for the drill. He placed the drill INSIDE OF / IN FRONT OF her mouth / the sink. Vicki did not know which was worse, the moment of fear before drilling or the actual drilling. There was no one else to blame. She shouldn't have eaten all that leftover Halloween candy.

13. Leslie stood out on the deck to view the ocean. The tide was high, but there were very few waves. On the beach was the place where she had met her handsome companion. Only a few yards in front of her, facing the placid ocean, was the red lounge chair she was sitting in when he came. The large blue and yellow umbrella was open ABOVE / TO THE RIGHT OF the chair / a beach towel. It was large enough to offer relief from the blazing sun. Maybe it was the bright colors against the drab sand that made that place stand out. What was it he said when he had come over? Something about thinking she was a

movie star? Strange to think that someone that good looking would be so shy as to use a corny line like that. Leslie smiled as a breeze came in off of the ocean. She breathed in the salted air and lit a cigarette.

14. Roger sat staring out the bus window on his way home from work. As he was scanning the drab city he saw the object of his desire. In the gas station across the street was that old black Ford. He was saving all his money to buy it from a guy one of his co-workers knew. Although it was far from perfect, Roger thought that it was the best car he had ever seen. He pressed his face against the window to get a better look. TO THE LEFT OF / IN FRONT OF the old car was a slick new gas pump / Porsche. The contrast was striking. Roger was hoping to own the car in a few weeks. How liberating and fun it would be to cruise around town in that car. Even sitting in a gas station it seemed to command your attention.

15. Lance could not believe that he had actually written this letter. For the past three years, he and Tori had been inseparable, attending the same university and sharing a passion for writing. Now that the two of them had finished school, they were both beginning exciting careers. She had chosen the fast paced life of journalism, where deadlines were always rapidly approaching. Lance decided on a more relaxed career as a novelist. He had always felt comfortable in their relationship, but lately, Tori was pressuring him to pop the question. He thought that he loved her, but he was just not ready for married life. Lance folded the letter and placed it inside of the envelope. He glanced down at the postage stamp ON / BESIDE the envelope / a book. He did not want to lose his beloved Tori, but they could not reach a compromise on this issue. Lance had sought advice from anyone that would listen to him. The advice varied so much, and only intensified the confusion boiling in his head. He even tried to coax an answer out of his loyal cocker spaniel, Bailey.

16. It was almost daybreak and the eastern horizon was developing a slight pinkish tint. Ivan was having problems paying the bills, and was desperate for some work. Last week, a lawyer walked inside of his detective agency. The gentleman suspected that his wife was cheating on him while he was away on business trips. He agreed to take the job, although these jobs were so typical that they bored him. At least he would have a chance to use the new camera that his brother had given him for Christmas. That night Ivan had checked into a hotel room, and had a perfect view of the apartment across the street. He attached the zoom lens, and placed the camera down ON TOP OF / NEXT TO the tripod / bed. The night seemed to last forever, and nobody had come near the apartment window. Ivan was beginning to question whether he was watching the correct apartment. He hated working jobs like this, they were boring and the pay was lousy.

17. Robert felt out of place in the kitchen. He felt lucky that he married Heather, because she could prepare such fabulous meals. Today was their daughter's fourth birthday, and there was going to be a party in the evening. Heather called to say that she had a flat tire, and would be late. At first Robert did not panic, but after finding his wallet empty, he had to accept the cold hard fact that he would have to bake. He found an instant cake mix in the pantry and gathered all of the ingredients that it listed. He was surprised that the directions were so simple. After mixing all of the ingredients, Robert heard the doorbell ring. He placed the cake INSIDE OF / NEXT TO the oven / refrigerator. He hoped that the guests were not arriving early. The house was still a mess. The original plan was for him to dust and vacuum,

and for Heather to bake. Fortunately, it was just a kid selling candy bars for school. Robert told him to come back later in the week when he would have money.

18. Until last month, Carrie had never taken care of a plant before. When she left for Chicago, a co-worker gave Carrie a potted palm as a going away present. Carrie enjoyed plants, she loved to take pictures of them outside, but she had never bought one for herself. She noticed that the plant wasn't doing too well, some of the leaves were turning brown. She asked a gardener how often she should water it. Surprisingly, she was watering it on the recommended schedule. She had kept the plant on an end table near the kitchen, and it didn't get much light. Maybe it would do better if she moved it. Carrie went out and bought a plant stand. She placed the plant IN FRONT OF / TO THE RIGHT OF a window / picture. She hoped that the move would help the plant. Even though she only had it for a month, she was already attached to it, like it was a pet.

19. Jennifer enjoyed eating breakfast here every morning. It was one of those small diners that some call a "greasy spoon". It was never crowded. The same people were in there day in and day out. She came here in the mornings to grab a quick bite to eat, and to read the morning paper. The food was okay, but the coffee was exquisite. Jennifer, like many people, was addicted to caffeine. She needed it to get going before she went to work. Jennifer was relieved when the new waitress finally came over. The waitress held the pot of coffee ABOVE / TO THE RIGHT OF the coffee mug / table. It was about time. Her mug had been empty for almost five minutes. Jennifer was growing upset with the new waitress. The waitress started working in the diner last week. The woman was friendly, but she hadn't caught on to an important part of the job. In the morning, waitresses should be carrying a pot of coffee at all times. They should always be ready to refill the customer's coffee mug.

20. It was raining all afternoon, and there was no sign of it letting up. Harriet would be fine for a while, but every now and then she would break down into tears again. When she wasn't sobbing, she was fighting back anger. Her anger was directed towards a twenty year old man. Last weekend, he was driving home after a night of drinking. His car swerved across the median and smashed into another car, killing the driver. The driver was Harriet's daughter, Megan. Harriet was standing apart from everyone. The funeral was almost over. The pallbearers carried the casket from the hearse. Then the casket was placed INSIDE OF / NEXT TO the grave / gathering. Harriet broke down again. How could he have been so stupid to drive while drunk? Harriet didn't understand why her innocent daughter died, yet the guilty man was still alive.

21. Wally was having a grand time at the party. The semester had dragged on and seemed like it would last forever. But it was finally over, there were no more classes. Wally loved the parties at the end of a semester. He had stayed up countless nights, either studying for an exam or writing a paper. He wanted to enjoy himself tonight. He wasn't sure who the host was. But whoever it was had some money. All of the furniture looked like it was brand new, especially the tables. It looked really nice. Some of his friends asked if he wanted to join a poker game. Wally set his beer down ON / NEXT TO a coaster / chair. He made his way into the dining room. Four of his friends were already in there. He pulled out his wallet and bought some poker chips. Wally was a little bit disappointed. None of them had brought cigars to the party.

22. Hector loved to do work in the chemistry lab. He found chemistry lectures to be boring, but the lab experiments were very interesting. Hector gathered materials that he needed for the experiment today. He organized the beakers, flasks, and Bunsen burner in his work area. Because he wanted to be safe in the lab, he put his goggles on before working with any chemicals. He read the directions, and filled a beaker with hydrochloric acid. He brought the beaker back and mixed another chemical with it. Then he lit the Bunsen burner. Using tongs, he held the beaker ABOVE / TO THE SIDE OF the flame / a flask and swirled the mixture. Moments later, Hector poured the mixture he had heated on the burner into a flask. Since the mixture had to sit for a while, he decided to clean the equipment that he was finished with. He didn't mind cleaning, because the acetone made his skin tingle when it got on his hands.

23. Earl was a mediocre cowboy during the day and a very good poker player at night. He had played cards in this saloon since 1884, and had never lost money. One night, he had lost quite a bit of money. He suspected that the other players were cheating. Earl decided that if they were going to play dirty, he would too. He had his gun with him. He was a good shot, too. Before he would resort to violence, he wanted to see if his luck would change. It didn't, he kept losing money. Finally, he decided the time was right. He lowered his right hand TO THE RIGHT OF / ABOVE his holster / the table. He began to get nervous as he thought about what he must do. Then Earl pulled out the gun and stood up. He waved the gun back and forth in front of the other players. He demanded that they put all of their money in a bag. When all of the money was collected, Earl walked out of the saloon. When he reached his horse, he placed his gun back in the holster and rode off.

24. Dana had a few stations programmed in her stereo. She liked some rock and alternative stations, but she really liked a station that played rock music from the 1960's. Her favorite group was the Beatles. She wanted to buy the Beatles Anthology compact discs that were released, but all of the music stores were sold out. She saw the compact discs advertised in a catalog. Immediately, she filled out the order form. Six weeks later, she received a package in the mail. Dana knew what it was. She opened the box and pulled out the compact discs. She placed the first disc IN / ON TOP OF her stereo / purse. All of the walls in her bedroom were plastered with pictures and posters of the band. Her favorite Beatle was Paul. She blamed Yoko Ono for breaking up the group. The other kids couldn't understand why she listened to that ancient music that their parents listened to. Did she have no sense of progression?

Version 2

1. David walked along the banks of the river in town. Although the days were unbearably hot, the nights could be bitterly cold. He hugged his thin dust-covered coat around him as he thought about how the travel agent had lied to him. She had said that North African Sahara towns were friendly and romantic. Everything so far suggested the opposite. The clouds were blocking out the moonlight, making the night darker. He needed some light so he could read his map. David was standing BELOW/IN FRONT OF an old LAMPPOST/BRIDGE. He listened to the wind blow as he took stock of their misfortunes so far. The townsfolk treated you with contempt if you didn't speak the native Arabic or French. His wallet and

passport had been stolen. Maureen and he were shocked to find out how decrepit and dirty their hotel was. Even the coffee they were served was bad. David was sure that this trip would bring his troubled marriage to an end.

2. Charlie was full of emotion. He had won all of the baseball pitching awards this season. He had the most wins and strikeouts, and was the unanimous choice for MVP. Earlier tonight, Charlie had pitched a shutout. It was the last game of the season and his team had won, 3-0. Unfortunately, it was also his last game. Charlie wanted to keep feeling like he was part of the team. Charlie strolled from the dugout onto the ball field. A light rain was falling and the grounds crew had already placed the tarp on the field. Charlie was standing to the LEFT/TOP of the FOUL LINE/PITCHERS MOUND. He kicked the ground. He had done so well this year. A tear came to his eye as he thought about his retirement. He knew that the surgery would end his career, but he also knew of the risks if he avoided it. It was hard to walk away. At least he could prey off the glory-starved public by charging for the autographs he signed.

3. Sara was feeling a little down. It was Friday night, and all of her close friends had plans. She didn't want to waste the night sitting in front of the television. That's all she has done since Trent dumped her last week. She remembered that people had been talking about a new romantic comedy that was playing at the movies. It was an easy decision, and she left for the theater. Sara hurried to get there. She hated to arrive after the movie began and searching for a seat in the dark, so she left early. She was surprised when she walked into the theater. Her ex-boyfriend, Trent, was in the center of the auditorium. She walked down to take a seat. Sara was sitting FAR FROM/NEXT TO TRENT'S/A BROKEN seat. The previews began right away. Sara thought about how much he had hurt her. Why was he such a fool?

4. Tonight was the big night. Nicole fell in love with Chad the first time that she saw him. She never believed in love at first sight, but now she thought differently. She remembered the first day of class. Nicole was catching up with people that she hadn't seen all summer. Then, she spotted his blonde hair. It was wavy and hung down to his shoulders. Chad turned around and smiled at her. At that moment, she knew that she was in love. She had never been this nervous about a date. She walked across her room to her dresser. She wanted to wear her favorite pair of earrings. Nicole was standing IN FRONT/TO THE SIDE of her JEWELRY BOX/MIRROR. She adjusted her bra for the fiftieth time. She hoped she didn't get any new zits. Where was he? He said that he would pick her up at eight, and it was already "8:01".

5. Paul felt burnt out. Here it was, the middle of July, and all of his friends were enjoying their summer vacation. Paul wasn't as fortunate. Paul's father had lost his job when the Ford plant closed, and he hasn't been able to find a good paying job to replace it. Paul was left on his own to pay for college. This summer he found a job painting houses around the city. It paid pretty well, plus he could work without a shirt and get a tan. The house that he was painting today was a quaint, two-story home. Paul liked these less because the sun was blocked by a tarp to prevent paint from dripping. Some of the guys painting the top of the house could be pretty sloppy. Paul was standing UNDER/ON TOP OF a TARP/LADDER. He painted around a window. Before this summer, Paul had not done much painting. Now, he thought that he wasn't too bad. This skill could come in handy if he wasn't able to finish college.

6. Shelly was ecstatic. She finally accumulated enough vacation days to spend two weeks at a ski resort. When she was in college, she went skiing at least twice a year. Now that she was working, there just wasn't any time for skiing. As soon as she arrived at the resort, she checked into a room. Shelly didn't even unpack; she headed right for the slopes. She strapped on her skis and was ready to go. Outside the hotel, she realized that she forgot her ski lift ticket. Shelly was standing at the BOTTOM/TOP of A SNOWDRIFT/THE MOUNTAIN. She could see the other skiers flying down the slopes. She was really excited. She loved the high speeds and to swerve around the trees. She made a promise to herself, that every winter she would make time to come here.

7. The waiting room was empty. Vicki wasn't sure if that was good or bad. She picked up a magazine and flipped through it. She always hated visits to the dentist. Her past couple haven't been too bad. She hasn't had any cavities for a couple of years. She hoped that her luck would continue. After a couple of minutes, the dentist called her in. She sat down in the chair as the dentist examined her teeth. He told her that she could relax while he rinsed his equipment. The dentist was holding the drill INSIDE/IN FRONT OF THE SINK/VICKI'S MOUTH. Vicki cringed. She did not know which was worse, the moment of fear before drilling or the actual drilling. There was no one else to blame. She shouldn't have eaten all that leftover Halloween candy.

8. Leslie stood out on the deck to view the ocean. The tide was high, but there were very few waves. On the beach was where she had met her handsome companion. Only a few yards in front of her, facing the placid ocean, was the red lounge chair. She was sitting in that chair soaking up some rays when he came. The blue and yellow umbrella was standing open NEXT TO/ABOVE THE CHAIR/A BEACH TOWEL. The umbrella rustled in the wind. Maybe it was the bright colors against the drab sand that made that place stand out. What was it he said when he had come over? Something about thinking she was a movie star? Strange to think that someone that good looking would be so shy as to use a corny line like that. Leslie smiled as a breeze came in off of the ocean. She breathed in the salted air and lit a cigarette.

9. Roger sat staring out the bus window. As he was scanning the drab city he saw the object of his desire. In the gas station across the street was that old black Ford. He was saving all his money to buy it from a guy one of his co-workers knew. Although it was far from perfect, Roger thought that it was the best car that he had ever seen. He pressed his face against the window to get a better look. The car was parked so that it was the first one that you'd see, blocking the others. The old car was sitting IN FRONT OF/ NEXT TO a slick new PROSCHE/GAS PUMP. The contrast was striking. Roger was hoping to own the car in a few weeks. How liberating it would be to cruise around town in that car. Even sitting across the street it seemed to command your attention.

10. It was almost daybreak. The eastern horizon was developing a pinkish tint. Ivan was having problems paying the bills. He was desperate for some work. Last week, a lawyer walked inside of his detective agency. The gentleman suspected that his wife was cheating on him while he was away on business trips. Ivan agreed to take the job, although these jobs were so typical that they bored him. At least he would have a chance to use the new camera that his brother had given him for Christmas. That night

Ivan had checked into a hotel room, and had a perfect view of the apartment across the street. He loaded film into the camera and attached the zoom lens. The night seemed to last forever, and nobody came near the apartment window. He lay down on the small bed to get a little rest. Ivan was putting the camera NEXT TO/ON TOP OF the BED/TRIPOD. Ivan was beginning to question whether he was watching the correct apartment. He hated working jobs like this, they were boring and the pay was lousy.

11. Robert felt out of place in the kitchen. He felt lucky that he had married Heather, because she could prepare such fabulous meals. Today was their daughter's fourth birthday. There was going to be a party in the evening. Heather called to say that she had a flat tire, and would be late. After finding his wallet empty, Robert had to accept the fact that he would have to bake. The only cake mix in the pantry was for an ice cream cake. He gathered all of the ingredients that it listed. He was surprised that the directions were so simple. After mixing all of the ingredients, he poured them into a cake pan. Robert heard the doorbell ring. He wanted to keep the cake safe from the dog. Robert was placing the cake INSIDE OF/NEXT TO the REFRIGERATOR/OVEN. He hoped that the guests were not arriving early. He ran to the door. Fortunately, it was just a kid selling candy bars. Robert told him to come back later in the week when he would have money.

12. Until last month, Carrie had never taken care of a plant before. When she left for Chicago, a co-worker gave Carrie a potted palm as a going away present. Carrie enjoyed plants, she loved to take pictures of them outside, but she had never bought one for herself. She asked a gardener how often she should water it. Surprisingly, she was watering it on the recommended schedule. Her husband had just hung an ugly picture in the living room. She had kept the plant near the kitchen, and she thought maybe it would be better if she moved it to hide the picture. She went to the store and bought a plant stand. Carrie was placing the plant IN FRONT/TO THE RIGHT of a PICTURE/WINDOW. She hoped that the move would improve the situation. The picture had only been up for a month, and she was already sick of it.

13. Jennifer enjoyed eating breakfast here every morning. It was one of those small diners that some call a "greasy spoon". It was never crowded. The same people were in there day in and day out. She came here in the mornings to grab a quick bite to eat, and to read the morning paper. The food was okay, but the coffee was exquisite. Jennifer, like many people, was addicted to caffeine. She needed it to get going before she went to work. Jennifer was relieved when the new waitress finally came over. She was carrying a fresh pot of coffee. She asked Jennifer if she'd like some more. It was about time, her mug had been empty for almost five minutes. Coffee spilled all over the table. The waitress was holding the pot of coffee TO THE RIGHT OF/ABOVE the COFFEE MUG/TABLE. Jennifer was growing upset with the new waitress. The waitress started working in the diner last week. The woman was friendly, but she hadn't caught on to the important parts of the job. Waitresses should be carrying a pot of coffee at all times, and shouldn't spill it.

14. Hector loved to work in the chemistry lab. He found chemistry lectures boring, but the lab experiments were very interesting. Hector gathered the materials that he needed for the experiment today. He organized the beakers, flasks, and Bunsen burner in his work area. Hector wanted to be safe in the lab so he put his goggles on. He read the directions, and filled a beaker with hydrochloric acid. He put another chemical in with it. Then he lit the Bunsen burner. He wanted to compare this solution to

another that he had mixed earlier in a flask. He grabbed the beaker with a pair of tongs. Hector was holding the beaker TO THE SIDE OF/ABOVE a FLASK/FLAME. He swirled it around gently. Hector then poured the mixture into a flask. Since the mixture had to sit for a while, he decided to clean the equipment. He didn't mind cleaning, because the acetone made his skin tingle when it got on his hands.

15. Earl was a mediocre cowboy during the day but a very good poker player at night. He had played cards in this saloon since 1884, and had never lost money. One night, Earl had lost quite a bit of money. He suspected that the other players were cheating. Earl decided that if they were going to play dirty, he would play dirty too. He had two aces stashed under the table. He had his gun with him. Before he would resort to cheating, he wanted to see if his luck would change. It didn't, he kept losing money. Finally, he was dealt a hand with an ace and he decided the time was right. He sat back in his chair. Earl was holding his right hand BELOW/ABOVE THE TABLE/HIS GUN. One of the players caught Earl with too many cards. Earl pulled out his gun and stood up. He demanded that the other players put all of their money in a bag. When all of the money was collected, Earl walked out of the saloon. When he reached his horse, he placed his gun back in the holster and rode off.

16. Dana had a few stations programmed in her stereo. She liked some rock and alternative stations, but she really liked a station that played rock music from the 1960's. Her favorite group was the Beatles. She wanted to buy the Beatles Anthology compact discs, but all of the music stores were sold out. She saw the compact discs advertised in a catalog. Immediately, she filled out the order form. Six weeks later, she received a package in the mail. Dana knew what it was. She opened the box and pulled out the compact discs. She wanted to listen to them, but remembered that her stereo was broken. She would have to go to her friend's house to listen to them. Dana was putting the first disc IN/ON TOP OF her PURSE/STEREO. All of the walls in her bedroom were covered with posters of the band. Her favorite Beatle was Paul. She blamed Yoko Ono for breaking up the group. The other kids couldn't understand why she listened to ancient music that their parents listened to. Did she have no sense of progression?

Practice stories for the functional studies

1. Ivan was the best archer in his village. One day, Ivan heard that a giant had been terrifying people in his village. They said that the giant came to the village at night and hurt people. Ivan was determined to kill the giant. When the giant came, Ivan shot an arrow at him. He hit him and the giant fell down. The people were overjoyed. Ivan decided to learn how to fight with a sword. He studied very hard for several weeks. He became a very skilled swordsman. Ivan got a powerful sword from his teacher. That night, he returned back to his village with his mighty sword. Everybody in the village welcomed him. Ivan became the best swordsman in his village.

2. Matthew was a poor student. He did not do his English homework. He was supposed to have read a book for today. Matthew hoped that his teacher would not call on him. He sat in his seat apprehensively. His teacher asked a question. Matthew slid down in his chair, hoping not to be noticed. His teacher called on somebody else. Matthew looked at the clock. He had five more minutes. His teacher asked another question. This time Matthew tried not to look at the teacher. He figured if she did

not make eye contact she would not call on him. His teacher called on somebody else. The bell rang - Matthew had made it.

3. Cliff was a forty-two year old man from Boston. He lived with his mother. He was a delivery man for UPS. Cliff never remembered anything and always got lost. He wanted to improve his memory. His friend told him about a memory course he could take. Cliff enrolled in the class. His memory improved greatly. He never forgot anything anymore. He wanted to impress his friends with his memory. He decided to read the encyclopedia. Cliff always bored his friends with his trivia knowledge. He was happy people listened to him.

4. Terry loved to cook. He could cook almost anything. Terry invited his girlfriend over for dinner at his place. He wanted to make a great meal. He went to the bank to get money. Then, Terry went to the supermarket to buy the ingredients. His girlfriend loved the dinner he prepared. Terry was happy. Terry learned to scuba dive. He wanted to take his girlfriend diving with him. His girlfriend had never learned to swim. Terry took her to his pool. He taught his girlfriend to swim. He got to go scuba diving with his girlfriend.

5. Norman was a heart surgeon. He had been a surgeon for twenty years. He was one of the top surgeons in the country. One day a patient with a bad heart complained of chest pains. Norman examined him and discovered the patient needed a new heart. He needed to find a heart donor. Norman called the national donor center. The national donor center had a compatible heart. Norman saved the man's life. Norman wanted to attend a medical conference in Japan. He asked his colleague if she would cover for him while he was away. She agreed and he went to the conference. Norman learned a lot at the conference.