

What to include in a diary...

Home learning week 3 - Recap

Writing a Diary Entry

When you write a diary entry you are writing about a day in the life of a real person or character. The diary entry needs to sound as if the person or character has written it so it needs to be written from their point of view. It also needs to be exciting and interesting to read. To get this right, just follow a few easy steps...



Diary Writing Must... be written in the first person.

- This means including pronouns such as **'I'**, **'my'**, **'we'** and **'our'**.
- These words are special because they tell us the diary is being written **by** someone and they are talking about **themselves**.
- On the next slide, read the two examples and see if you can spot which one uses the correct words to be written in the **'first person'**?

Diary Writing Must... be written in the first person.

As I looked down from our lofty home, I noticed a group of humans. They seemed to be holding loud, bright monsters with sharp, glistening teeth that were tearing our trees from the ground.

As she looked down from their lofty home, she noticed a group of humans. They seemed to be holding loud, bright monsters with sharp, glistening teeth that were tearing their trees from the ground.

Diary Writing Must...

use past tense for the main events.

- Diaries are usually written about an event that has already occurred so should be written in the **past tense**.
- Look at these examples below to help you see the difference

Two days ago, something dreadful **happened** – ‘Endurance’ became **stuck** in a large sheet of floating ice (an ice floe) following risky conditions crossing the Weddell Sea. **Past tense**

Today, something dreadful **will happen** – ‘Endurance’ **will stick** in a large sheet of floating ice (an ice floe) following risky conditions crossing the Weddell Sea. **Future tense**



Diary Writing Must... tell events in chronological order.

- In a diary we usually write about the events of our day in the order they happened.
- We only include the most important or interesting events.

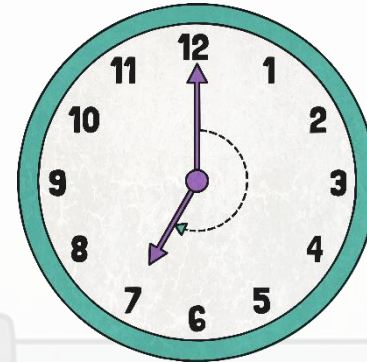
I ate breakfast. ✗

We visited the most amazing museum. ✓

An exhibit came to life! ✓

We had to evacuate the museum. ✓

I had a nap. ✓



You might choose to include information about breakfast and having a nap if it is relevant or unusual.

Diary Writing Must...

include personal emotions and feelings.

- A diary is usually a secret place to write the truth about how you or a character feels about what has happened to you in the day.
- In a diary you might include feelings, hopes or fears that you wouldn't want anyone to know about.
- Look at the examples below. Where have these diary writers described their feelings?

Egypt is such a rich, powerful country and although I am nervous about ruling it, I would rather do so alone.

Yesterday, feeling relieved, we reached the island of South Georgia and then completed a day long trek to find a whaling station...

Diary Writing Must...

**use time conjunctions and adverbials, e.g.
'after that, 'before lunch', 'until sunset'.**

- A diary is usually describing lots of events. To make sense of when these events happened, it is helpful to include time conjunctions and adverbials.
- If we just use one word such as 'then' to link the events in our diary it can get very boring!
- Look at the example below. Can you identify the time conjunctions and adverbials that have been used?

Later, we will organise a lavish funeral for father that will last for days, with plenty of music as he would have wanted.

After hearing the news of my father's death, I overheard the members of the court discussing what is to happen.