

TUESDAY

LEARNING  
OBJECTIVE:  
TO FIND  
AND  
ANALYSE  
THE KEY  
FEATURES  
OF A DIARY



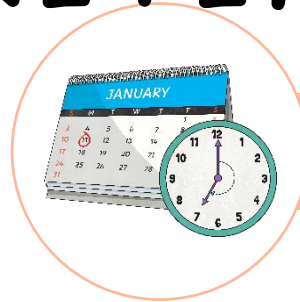
ENGLISH

# 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...



include the date and/or time

- The date or time can be written at the top of the page like this...

21<sup>st</sup> January 1915

Dear Diary,  
Two days ago, something dreadful happened. The conditions crossing the Weddell Sea were difficult and 'Endurance' became stuck in a large sheet of

- or it can be included in the first few sentences of a diary entry like this...

**Over the past months**, I have been watching my crew members in the freezing temperatures...

It is important because it tells the reader exactly when the diary is being written.

# 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**.
- Look at these two examples. The top one uses the correct words written in the 'first person'. How do you know?

First Person



Second Person



Third Person



First person →

As **I** looked down into **our** courtyard, **I** noticed a group of slaves. They seemed to be chatting, their loud, bright voices ringing through the unpaved, littered streets as they gathered **our** water for the day.

Not first person →

As **she** looked down into their courtyard, **she** noticed a group of slaves. They seemed to be chatting, their loud, bright voices ringing through the unpaved, littered streets as they gathered **their** water for the day.

# 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**.
- The top example is written in past tense. How do you know?

Past tense



Two days ago, something dreadful **happened** - One of the wagons became **stuck** on the cobbled streets and the poor horse pulling it was terrified.

Future tense



Today, something dreadful **will happen** - One of the wagons **will stick** on the cobbled streets and the poor horse pulling it **will be** terrified.

# DIARY WRITING MUST...

include an introduction to set the scene.

- It is important to set the scene when writing a diary to ensure that it is clear what you are writing about.
- You might answer the questions who, what, where or when.
- The highlighted paragraph is an introduction. How do you know?

Today has been an unusually busy day for me! When I woke up this morning, I noticed that the usual calm atmosphere in the Olympia had been replaced by one of panic.

For now I must catch up on eating and sleeping and hope that they do not return tomorrow.

# 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.
- Which of these would you include in a diary?

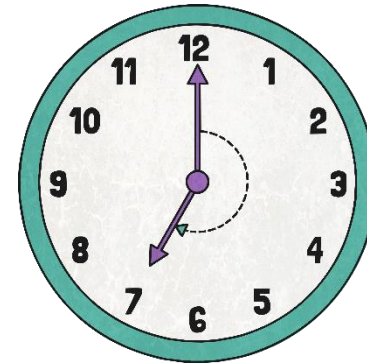
I ate breakfast.

We visited the most amazing theatre.

An actor fell off the stage!

We had to evacuate the theatre.

I had a nap.



# DIARY WRITING MUST...

**include personal emotions and feelings.**



- A diary is usually a secret place to write the truth about how you feel 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?

Greece is such a rich, powerful country and although I am nervous about ruling in it, I will do it with a smile.

Yesterday, feeling relieved, we reached the island of Crete and then completed a day long trek to find any civilisation...



# DIARY WRITING MUST...

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



First

Next

Just then

Meanwhile

When

Before long

Later

In the end

Finally

After a while

Immediately

Eventually

After some time



In due course

At first

Until then

After that

In the mean time

Once

- 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. The time conjunctions and adverbials have been highlighted.

**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.

# FIND THE FEATURES

Which features can you see in the following example?

Dear Diary,

Monday, 536 BC

Yesterday started as usual but changed very suddenly. As soon as I entered the kitchen, I knew something was wrong.

My slave was nowhere to be seen. My food was not ready and the door was wide open. I began to feel anxious as I noticed her over garments were also missing...

time conjunctions and adverbials

date

introduction

Dear Diary,

Mon 31<sup>st</sup> October

**Yesterday** started as usual but **changed** very suddenly. **As soon as** I entered the kitchen, I **knew** something was wrong.

first person

My **slave** was nowhere to be seen. My food **was** not ready and the door **was** wide open. I **began** to **feel anxious** as I **noticed** her over-garments **were also** missing...

past tense

feelings