



The Smarter & Effective Learning Approach

IGCSE ENGLISH PROGRAMME

WRITING MODULE 6

Name:

YEAR 10

In this lesson, you will learn how to write a journal or diary entry. As with every piece of writing, it is important for you to determine the purpose and audience of your journal entry before you begin. Journal entries are relatively straightforward, but you will need to be good at understanding people and putting yourself in their shoes.

Writing a Journal Entry

A journal entry is a personal record of things that have happened to the writer. It can also record the writer's thoughts and feelings.

Journals give a sense of the writer's personality and explain his or her changing emotions. They focus on key moments or incidents in the writer's world and (usually) provide a sense of time or sequence.

Here are some other features or conventions of a journal entry:

- There is a date (or several dates) of entry
- The writer uses first person
- Events that have happened are recounted
- There is a reference to time/sequence as the events are recounted
- Personal thoughts and feelings are included (remember that there is not much insight on other people's thoughts and feelings unless they have been explicitly expressed to the writer as the writer cannot read minds)
- All three tenses could be used. The writer would use past tense when recounting events that have passed, present tense to give a sense of what is presently happening or to express feelings and emotions, and future tense to show what the writer feels could or should happen.

Task 1 [12] (Estimated time: 15 to 20 minutes)

Read the following diary entry written by Tanya Saunders, a woman who lives in Kenya, East Africa. Then, answer the following questions.

Yesterday, it was cloudy and rainy all day, the crocodiles starved of any sunlight and barely any warmth [...] then today, we awoke to a totally different morning: back to the scorching heat and the crocodiles returning in droves to bask on the sandbanks, while the Goliath Heron, too hot even to finish washing, just sat down in the river and stayed there (and who could blame it?) I had to take a cold shower at midday, just to fortify myself for the onslaught of the afternoon heat.

Tonight, as might be expected, the thunder and lightning are raging again, huge storm clouds fomented in the heat of the day, now towering overhead [...] and the rain continues, and the bugs multiply, and the flowers prepare to launch into their reproductive cycles once again [...] the tiny pretty blue commelina flowers are already blooming everywhere you look (including on our bare lawn) and the sansevieria we transplanted into our garden (both on the balcony and outside) are sending up a proliferation of shoots, the new spikes breaking the surface of the earth like spiky aliens, and reaching up towards the light.

From the blog 'Tales from Kulafumbi: The Diary of a Nature Lover'

1. What does the writer focus on? [1]
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2. Based on the language used, what kind of background do you think this person comes from? [2]

3. Identify some words or phrases that are related to time and sequence to structure her entry. Then, explain how she uses them. (Hint: Look at where the words or phrases are placed.) [4]

Time and Sequence Words/Phrases	How they are used

4. How are tenses used in different sections to show what has happened and is happening? [1]

5. How does she used detailed description of the natural world to develop a vivid picture of the weather, and the flowers and plants in the garden? [2]

6. From reading Tanya Saunder's diary entry, what picture do you get of the writer and her interests? [2]

Planning a Journal Entry

If you were writing a journal entry for only yourself to read, you don't really have to think too much. In fact, you probably don't even need to have much of a structure if your aim is just to 'dump' your thoughts and feelings onto paper!

However, there are times when you will write a journal entry that you wish to read later. It is a form of reflection, and you want to thoughtfully process your thoughts and feelings.

In school, when you write journal entries, other people will be reading it. You might be given a task to reflect on, or you may be asked to reflect on what you have learned and how you plan to apply it. You may also be asked to write from someone else's viewpoint to help you gain different perspectives and develop your empathy. In this lesson, you will do the latter.

Task 2 [28] (Estimated time: 20 to 25 minutes)

Read the following text.

Families and Children: Ancient Egyptian Marriages

1 The Ancient Egyptians held marriage sacred. The family was broken down into roles that each would play in order for things to run smoothly. The father would work all day while, in smaller households, the mother was in charge of all things pertaining to the house. Cooking, cleaning, and watching the children were all her responsibilities. Marriage and a close family played an integral role in Egyptian life. A bride would be young, about 14 or 15, and her husband could be anywhere from 17 to 20 – older if he was divorced or a widower. The Ancient Egyptians were encouraged to marry young, considering that the life span was relatively short.

2 Many marriages were arranged with parental consent, as they have been in all societies, especially among the upper classes. But the abundance of love poetry between young people signifies that many couples did fall in love and choose each other as mates. Women played a larger role in arranging marriage. A suitor sometimes used a female go-between to approach the girl's mother – not her father.

3 The day of the marriage was simple. The bride merely moved her belongings into the home of her husband. He might be living alone or with his parents. The bride wore a long dress or tunic made of linen, which was probably covered with bead-net. If she owned any gold, silver, or blue gemstones, she would adorn herself with those. There was no official ceremony, but knowing how much Egyptians love music, dance, and food, there were usually family celebrations in honour of the couple.

4 Most marriages had a contract drawn up between the two parties. Marriage settlements were drawn up between a woman's father and her prospective husband, although many times, the woman herself was part of the contract. The sole purpose of the contract was to establish the rights of both parties to maintenance and possessions during the marriage and after divorce, if it should occur.

5 A man would marry as soon as he was physically mature and had reached a point in his chosen career that ensured his ability to provide for his wife and for the children they would expect. Most Egyptians were content to have only one wife. Marriage was an expensive matter for the man, and the whole contract provided such far-reaching safeguards for the material rights of wives and children that most men could only afford one wife at a time.

6 Marriages were mostly between people of the same social class, but there seems to have been little regard given to race or even nationality. It was not unusual for a northern Egyptian to marry a Nubian or someone even from another country.

7 There are many indications that husbands and wives in Ancient Egypt were often happy and in love. There are many touching portraits and statues of families including spouses and their children that reveal marital delight and warmth within the family.

<http://unusualhistoricals.blogspot.com>

1. Read the following writing task which you will write for this lesson:

Imagine you are a newlywed bride from ancient Egyptian times. You are writing a journal entry one week after your wedding.

In your diary entry, make sure to include:

- what happened leading up to your wedding day
- details about your husband (including how you met)
- your thoughts and feelings about your duties as a wife

Write about 300 to 350 words. Make sure you base your journal entry on the content of the text.

a) Before you begin looking for information from the text to write in your journal entry, here are some questions for you to think about:

i) Based on the text, would you (the newlywed bride) be happy about this marriage? Explain your answer. [2]

ii) Is it possible that you are not an Egyptian? Why or why not? [2]

- iii) Would you feel confident that your husband can provide for you and your future family? Give evidence to support your answer. [2]
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b) Now, underline/highlight the points that you could include under the given bullet points in the writing task. Aim to underline/highlight more so that you have more choices when you write later on. [10]

c) Now, arrange your ideas into the table below as your plan for your journal entry. Write an introduction and conclusion as well. [12]

Introduction	
Body Paragraph 1	• •

Body Paragraph 2	• • •
Body Paragraph 3	• • •
Conclusion	

Task 3 [25] (Estimated time: 25 to 30 minutes)

It's time to write your essay! Here is the writing task again:

Imagine you are a newlywed bride from ancient Egyptian times. You are writing a journal entry one week after your wedding.

In your diary entry, make sure to include:

- what happened leading up to your wedding day
- details about your husband (including how you met)
- your thoughts and feelings about your duties as a wife

Write about 300 to 350 words. Make sure you base your journal entry on the content of the text.

Take note of these reminders as you write:

- Write in the first person 'I'
- Have clear paragraphs with topic sentences
- Give a clear sense of the writer's personality and explain their feelings and changing emotions
- Focus on key moments or incidents in their world
- Provide a sense of time and sequence (use time connectives: finally, afterwards, earlier, later that day etc.)
- Vary your punctuation
- Vary your sentence types

Once you are done, don't forget to proofread and edit for grammar, spelling, and punctuation mistakes.

Conclusion

In this lesson, you learned about writing a journal or diary entry. Journal entries are accounts of people's experiences which include their thoughts and feelings. There is usually an indicator of sequence or time as the journal entry progresses.

In the next lesson, you will learn how to write to argue and persuade.

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