

O'level
Foundation
Week 26

The Write Tribe

PERSONAL RECOUNT

LIVEWORKSHEETS

REWRITE YOUR PREVIOUS ESSAY HERE!
FORMAT YOUR ESSAY PROPERLY!

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

PERSONAL RECOUNT

STRUCTURE

ORIENTATION
Explain the who, what, when, where of the experience in your introduction.

CHRONOLOGY
Events are described in the sequence in which they occurred.

INSIGHT
Include personal comments, opinions or interpretations of the recounted experience or event.

FOCUS
Only significant events are included

ORGANIZATION
Relevant information is grouped in paragraphs

FEATURES

TENSE
First and third person are used most frequently and recall is always written in past tense. Present tense can be used for analysis and opinion.

NOUNS
Use proper nouns to refer to specific people, places times and events

VOICE
Both active and passive voice are used in recounts

CONNECTIVES
Use conjuctions and connectives to link events and indicate time sequence

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WRITING ORGANIZER - Recount

Orientation: - Introduction – Setting the scene.

Gives details of:
- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why

Events: - What happened – in chronological order.

What happened?
- First...
- Next...
- Soon...
- During...
- After...
- Later...
- Eventually...
- Finally...

Conclusion: - Personal Comment (Optional)

What did you think, feel or decide about the events that happened.

Recounts are always written in past tense so be conscious to stay in this tense right throughout. Everything has already happened so ensure your vocabulary reflects this.

The challenge in writing a good recount is to provide the audience with the story as it happened but to leave out incidental and boring information.

Set the scene for the audience in terms of characters, setting and context. We refer to this as our orientation and it will provide the reader with all the key ingredients of the recount in the introduction by addressing the who, what, when and where.

Keep everything in chronological order in a recount and use a variety of time transitional terms and phrases so as to keep your audience engaged throughout.

- Use a range of adjectives, try and avoid "And then, and then , and then."
- Each new section will require a paragraph.
- Use the correct language and terms relevant to your recount. Consider your audience, and the language they will connect with.
- If you are writing from a specific point of view use the relevant language to match the perspective. Most commonly in a recount you will be recounting in the first person.

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PERSONAL ACCOUNT:

Write about a regret in your life.

If a time machine was ever invented and if we could rewrite memories, how nice would that be? We all have regrets. Sometimes, we wish we could turn back the clock and make things right. I have a regret too. It involves my grandmother. My parents are both workaholics. Much of my childhood was filled my grandmother's baked goodies, hugs and grand tales. I would wake up to the clanking of pots and pans in the morning. The aroma of her signature beef stew on Saturdays and heartwarming lullabies on stormy nights. I can still remember her sweet voice telling me, "Nicolas, when you were born, you were so small, you could fit in my palm!" However, all that changed when I became a teenager.

Life got busy. I got busy. School was demanding. I was coming home later and later. All of a sudden, grandmother was not that cool anymore. There were times I even found her clingy. She could not dial a phone number, needed me to accompany her to the market during weekends and would often call me on my mobile when I was out with friends. I did not have the patience nor did my parents. She became senile and would often forget trivial things. She would turn on the tap and walk away. Or she would leave the stove unattended. There was even a time I thought she was doing this to get my attention. I was too stressed with school and I simply did not have time to deal with her. Going out with her became a nightmare. She would repeat a question to the shopkeeper's annoyance. There was once she kept asking the price of a bag of rice despite asking about it just minutes ago. It was embarrassing and frustrating for me. My parents were not helping out. Gradually, I spent lesser and lesser time with her. My grandmother would often be home

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alone. The television was her only friend. The house was mostly empty. Days turned to weeks. Weeks turned to months. Something was happening right under our noses and we were blind to it.

One July 17, things turned for the worst. I still remember that day. It was a sultry hot afternoon and my school uniform was wet from my sweat. My house gate was wide open. This was unusual. My grandmother always ensured it was locked. Heart thumping wildly, I went into my house. Everything was exactly how it should be except my grandmother wasn't there. At first, I thought she must have gone to the shop. Yet, something was making me nervous. Something wasn't right! Hours later, there was a search party looking for my grandmother. She was missing!

My parents started arguing. There was no peace at home. My heart had a gaping hole and I felt a sickening feeling in the pit of my stomach. Then, we received a call. My life turned upside down. My grandmother was found dead. She was involved in an accident. My entire world went spinning. There were so many questions. What happened? Why? After months of counseling, we learnt the hard truth. My grandmother may have had dementia. It was all happening right under our noses. None of us had the inkling to get her checked up. Instead, we focused selfishly on our lives. This was not how I expected to lose my sweet, sweet grandmother. How I wish I could turn the clock and erase this regret. I learnt to always appreciate those closest to me in the hard way.

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