

Unit 3 Reading and Writing

Writing a Narrative Essay and Varying Sentence Patterns

Activity #1 instructions: Read the narrative essay. Drag and drop the elements of a narrative essay from the box to their correct place.

Introduction	Tells the story with a sequence of events.	Summarizes why this event was important and what you learned from it.	It sets the scene and explains which event is important and why.
Body paragraphs			
Conclusion	Thesis statement		

First Day at University

What important days in your life do you remember? I remember my first day at university very clearly. I felt excited and happy. At the same time I was very nervous because I didn't know anyone. However, my first day at university was memorable.

At first I was confused and lost. I didn't know where to go. I had to ask a stranger where the first year students were going to meet. This person was very polite and showed me the way. I walked through some big buildings, and when I arrived I saw many students and I felt scared.

After a while I told myself to be braver. I asked one girl what was happening and we discovered that we were in the same group. We introduced ourselves. Her name was May. We joined in with the activities for "freshie" students. Soon, I started feeling much better. The activities helped me feel part of a team and I was beginning to feel that I had become a university student.

I am always going to remember that day because I had the opportunity to meet many people. Most importantly, I met the best friends that I have ever had. Finally, I think that it is natural that on the first day at university we feel nervous, but often difficult experiences have happy endings. That's why I say that my first day in the university was very memorable.

Activity #2 instructions: Read the narrative essay. Respond the following questions:

My First Foreign Friend

My first foreign friend broke my heart. However, before I could have a foreign friend, I needed to travel abroad first. I have always wanted to go abroad and make friends around the world. Last winter, I was able to study abroad for four weeks in Toronto. While I was studying in Toronto, I met a Canadian girl named Jem. She told me that she wanted to make Japanese friends, so I was happy to talk to her. I was also happy to talk to her because she is so beautiful. Jem is half white and half Filipino, and I had never seen anyone like her before. It is safe to say that I fell in love with her at first sight, but not everything is meant to be.

In the beginning of our friendship, I was able to meet Jem often because we were language exchange partners. Jem helped me study English, and I helped her study Japanese. Gradually we became more and friendlier, so I invited her to go out to eat dinner with me. We went to a restaurant with her friends who also study Japanese. I talked a lot with her and her friends in English, and we ate katsu don. It is very delicious. Having dinner together made me very happy, and I think that my language skill improved.

One day, I went to watch an American football game with my Kwansei Gakuin friends. At the game, I saw Jem with another student. I said hello, and I asked about her friend. She said "He is my boyfriend." That is, she had a boyfriend. I was surprised, and I was disappointed in love. Furthermore, her boyfriend was also Japanese and was studying abroad like me. I was sad because of that unbelievable fact. At that moment, I thought that my experience in other country was sad.

At last, the day I went back to Japan, I heard from Jem by email. In her email, she wrote, "thank you for being my friend. I want to meet you and speak in Japanese when I go to Japan this summer." Her email really made me smile. I forgot about my feelings at the football game and remembered all the great times I had in Toronto. Overall, I learned that life is made up of good and bad memories, but it is most important to remember the good ones.

1. Who are the characters in the story? _____
2. How did the writer and Jem become friends? _____
3. What happened before the writer's heart was broken? (These are called main events)

4. What broke the writer's heart? _____
5. What did the writer learned? Was is a positive lesson or a negative lesson?

6. What time expressions did the writer use? _____

