

A Good Memory

This second writing task is structurally similar to Writing Task 1. Students should write one paragraph. Many of the exercises are similar to those in the first writing task and to those tasks in Level 1.

About the Task

In this Writing Task 2, students recount a past event which they feel good about. They should communicate the people, place, and activities with some detail. Students should also explain their feelings about the memory. This task should begin to prepare students for the more demanding four paragraph assignment in Writing Task 3.

Language Skills

- time phrases
- subjects, pronouns
- sentence connecting
- past tense narration and personal expression

Student Writing Tasks

- set the scene in time and place- point of view
- include the people
- tell what happened and why
- tell how they felt and why

Activities

Worksheets or materials are provided for the following. Instructors should use other adjunct materials they like as needed. The first writing task should have given you a pretty good idea of your students' writing skills and needs.

- picture prompt for speaking as pre-writing, or to recycle example readings
- scrambled sentence and paragraph exercise
- subject and pronoun practice for cohesion
- three example paragraphs
- example of revision symbols
- mindmap and sentences
- grading rubric

Optional Follow-up Ideas

Reading and speaking should also be part of the classroom activities in this course.

- Present orally to a small group.
- Read each others papers.
- Expansion to 3 paragraph if needed by more advanced students.

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Examples

These three paragraphs here for teachers' reference: all the attached exercises are based on them. The paragraphs recount the same events with the same vocabulary and sentence structures, but in different voices. Try these for dictation or cloze exercises if you like.

Last August, I visited my sister Laura on her birthday. She was turning 30 years old, so we planned a special day. It was hot and the sun was shining, so her boyfriend took us fishing on his boat. Laura loves seafood, so we barbecued fish and cooked her favorite food: lobster. After dinner, we stayed up late at night talking and listening to music in her garden. I only see my sister once a year, so I was really happy to be with her on her birthday.

In August, Ted visited his sister Laura on her birthday. She was turning 30 years old, so her brother and her boyfriend planned a special day. It was hot and the sun was shining, so Laura's boyfriend took them fishing on his boat. Laura loves seafood, so they barbecued fish and cooked her favorite food: lobster. After dinner, they stayed up late at night talking and listening to music in her garden. Ted only sees his sister once a year, so he was really happy to be with her on her birthday.

Last summer, my brother Ted visited me on my birthday. It was my thirtieth birthday, so he planned a special day for me. It was hot and the sun was shining, so my boyfriend took us fishing on his boat. I love seafood, so we barbecued fish and cooked my favorite food: lobster. After dinner, we stayed up late at night talking and listening to music in my garden. My brother only visits me once a year, so I was really happy to be with him on my birthday.