

Personal Recount

Year 8 English | Due Friday 9 February | Wordcount: 450 minimum

Learning Intentions: I can structure a text in chronological order, using connectives to join ideas together logically. I can write in the first person and past tense. I can write a text for an intended audience, using language features such as suspense and figurative language to add interest.

Your task is to write a **recount** of an experience that you've had. It must be something that actually happened to you, and you should tell it in a realistic way.

Step 1: Decide on a topic. This can sometimes be the hardest part! It doesn't have to be something super amazing – even an ordinary day can sound interesting if you tell the story in an interesting way. Here are some ideas:

- A really fun sleepover or birthday party
- The time I witnessed a car crash/police chase.
- Our holiday to....
- The day we got our pet and some of the funny things they've done
- The best day I've ever had.
- The worst day I've ever had.
- The time I got lost at Sea World & thought I'd never see my family again.
- The time I met someone famous



Step 2: Think about your audience. Imagine that you're telling this story to someone – a friend, the teacher, your parents. Write down who your audience is and keep them in mind when you're writing.

Step 3: Write down dot points of the exact order that things happened. A recount should always be in chronological order – NO flashbacks or extra information at the end!

Step 4: Write your introduction paragraph. Try and grab your audience's attention, making them interested to read more. In this paragraph you must include orientation details – WHEN did this happen, WHERE were you, WHO else was there? Make sure you are writing in **first person** (I, me, my) and **past tense** (we went, she said, it happened).

Step 5: Write your body paragraph/s. This is where you explain what happened, in order. Some suggestions to make your recount interesting and easy to read:

- Use connectives (e.g. first, then, after that, finally)
- Use suspense (you won't believe what happened next)
- Use dialogue or quotes ("help!" I shouted)
- Use descriptive language (similes, metaphors) and good vocabulary

Step 6: Write your conclusion paragraph. Sum up the story and evaluate the experience. Say what you learned, whether you enjoyed it, or what you'll do now that you've had this experience. Link back to the start of the story (reorientation) and say what's changed for you because of this event.

Step 7: Give your recount a title. Go through the marking rubric and/or checklist to make sure you've included everything. Check your punctuation, spelling and grammar. Have someone else proofread it.

Marking Rubric

Criteria	A	B	C	D
Format & Layout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Included a title Clear paragraphs – intro, body & conclusion Story flowed logically in chronological order Used connectives (first, next, then, after that, finally) 				
Orientation & Evaluation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro paragraph had orientation details – who, what, when, where? Conclusion paragraph had evaluation details – lesson learned/moral, summary, reorientation (linking back to start) 				
Audience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attempt to be interesting - used opening 'hook' to grab attention, used suspense to maintain interest Used dialogue or quotes Made it clear who you were telling the story to (considered audience) Used appropriate language for audience 				
Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used past tense Used 1st person point of view Used descriptive language, similes, metaphors, interesting verbs & adjectives, good vocabulary No mistakes in punctuation, grammar, spelling, capitalisation etc 				

