

WRITING 07

RECOUNT WRITING

RETELL EVENTS IN ORDER. BE CLEAR, ORGANISED AND ENGAGING.



WHAT IS A RECOUNT?

A recount retells something that happened in the past. It can be based on real experiences, events or activities. It informs the reader in time order.

PURPOSE

- To inform
- To share an experience
- To remember events
- To entertain

KEY FEATURES



PAST TENSE

Use past tense verbs to tell what happened.



TIME ORDER

Events are written in the order they happened.



TIME CONNECTIVES

Use words that show when things happened.



FIRST PERSON

Often written using 'I' or 'we'.



DETAILS

Include key details that help the reader understand.

EXAMPLE EXTRACT (ANNOTATED)



Last Saturday, my class went on a trip to Sentosa Island. We met at school at 7.30 a.m. and the bus left at 8.00.

When we arrived, we went straight to the beach. The sun was shining and the sea looked beautiful.

First, we played a few games on the sand. After that, we went kayaking in small groups. It was exciting but a little scary when the waves hit us!

At lunchtime, we had a picnic under the trees. The food was delicious and everyone laughed a lot.

Before we left, we took many photos as souvenirs. We got back to school at 4.30 p.m. It was an amazing day that I will never forget.

1 TIME CONNECTIVES

'Last Saturday' sets the time.

2 PAST TENSE

Verbs in the past tell what happened.

3 TIME ORDER

Words like 'First', 'After that' show sequence.

4 DETAILS

Extra information makes the recount more engaging.

5 PERSONAL VOICE

'I' and 'we' share the writer's experience.

USEFUL TIME CONNECTIVES

To begin: First, First of all, To start with, At first

Next: Next, Then, After that, Later, Afterwards

Time: Meanwhile, Suddenly, At that moment

To end: Finally, In the end, At last, Eventually

RECOUNT STRUCTURE



ORIENTATION

Introduce who, what, where, when and why.



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Retell events in the order they happened.



SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

Include important or exciting moments in detail.



REORIENTATION

Conclusion – how you felt, what you learned or what happened next.

POWERFUL VOCABULARY



Verbs

arrived, explored, discovered, performed, achieved, enjoyed, learned, realised, experienced



Adjectives

exciting, amazing, tiring, challenging, unforgettable, fantastic, delicious, crowded



Adverbs

quickly, suddenly, carefully, happily, excitedly, bravely, luckily, loudly



Other words

trip, activity, group, adventure, journey, memory, experience, souvenir, challenge

RECOUNT CHECKLIST

- ✓ I have used past tense throughout.
- ✓ I have written my events in order.
- ✓ I have used time connectives.
- ✓ I have included key details.
- ✓ I have used first person (I / we).
- ✓ I have described important moments.
- ✓ I have ended with a reflection or conclusion.
- ✓ I have checked my spelling and punctuation.

STRONG vs WEAK RECOUNTS

WEAK

- It was a good day.
- We went to the park.
- We played games.
- Then we ate.
- We came back.
- I had fun.

- ✗ Not in time order
- ✗ Too short / not enough detail
- ✗ No time connectives
- ✗ No reflection

STRONG

- Last Saturday, we went to the park.
- First, we played football for an hour.
- After that, we had lunch under a tree.
- Later, we explored the playground.
- Finally, we came home tired but happy.
- It was one of the best days ever!

- ✓ Events in order
- ✓ Uses time connectives
- ✓ Includes details
- ✓ Ends with a reflection

SENTENCE STARTERS

To begin: Last weekend, ... / On Friday morning, ...
We were all excited because ...

Next: First, we ... / Then we ... / After that, ...

Time / Change: Suddenly, ... / Meanwhile, ... / Later, ...

To end: Finally, ... / In the end, ... / Eventually, ...

Reflection: I felt ... / It was an amazing day because ...
I will always remember ...

COMMON MISTAKES

- ✗ Using present tense.
- ✗ Writing events out of order.
- ✗ Forgetting time connectives.
- ✗ Not including enough details.
- ✗ Too many 'and thens'.
- ✗ Not ending with a reflection.



CHALLENGE: IMPROVE IT!

Rewrite the weak recount below to make it stronger using the features on this poster.

We went to the zoo. We saw some animals.
It was hot. We ate lunch. Then we went home.
It was fun.

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TOP TIP

PLAN – WRITE – CHECK



Plan your events. Write in order.
Check for details, time connectives and past tense.



GOOD RECOUNTS TAKE READERS BACK IN TIME.

Remember the **order**. Add the **details**. Share the **experience**.

