

Recounts

Students: Please keep this sheet somewhere safe or have your tutor paste this into your homework book or class workbook.

What is a recount?

Recounts are a way of retelling an important event or describing an experience that you have had to others, such as a school trip or a funny story.

What are the features in a recount?

First Person

When you write in the 1st person, you put yourself inside the writing by describing how you felt and what you were doing.

If you were writing about your first day at a new school, you might put:

“As the door opened to my new classroom, I felt sick to my stomach. I walked in and saw thirty children’s faces just staring at me. I wanted to run home”.

Writing in the 1st person is different to writing in the 3rd person because you are writing about yourself and not about someone else, like a character that you have made up.

Past Tense

Recounts are written in the past tense because you are writing about something that has already happened.

Lots of verbs change when you write them in the past tense. Adding ‘ed’ to the end of many verbs makes them past tense. In others, just a few vowels in the verb change.

For example:

“I placed the ball on the penalty spot and took a deep breath. As I walked back to edge of the box and turned around, I could see that the goalkeeper looked nervous. I knew this was my last chance to score before the final whistle blew.”



Chronological Order

Recounts are usually written in the order in which they happened. This is called chronological order.

To do this you will have to use time connectives such as:

- Firstly
- Next
- Then
- After that
- Meanwhile
- Eventually
- Later
- Finally

When you are planning your recount, think about the important and interesting parts of your experience.

Next you will need to think about when they happened, who else was involved, where you were and why you felt like you did.

Now you can start to plan out your beginning, middle and end, deciding on the types of connectives, past tense verbs and pronouns you are going to use.

Writing a Recount

Purpose: Recounts can really help people to imagine what an experience was like, so use lots of descriptive words and phrases to make it seem like your reader is there with you.

Paragraphs: Break up your recount into paragraphs. This makes it easier to add in all of the best bits and to put them into chronological order. Use time connectives to introduce each section.

Style: Recounts are written in the 1st person, the past tense and in chronological order, using pronouns such as 'I' and 'we'. Try to help the reader to imagine how you felt by exaggerating your emotions and using amazing adjectives.

HOW TO WRITE A RECOUNT:

Activity 1: As a class, read through this short sample recount called, "A Trip to the Zoo" and find the different language features as described earlier.

1. Circle all the **pronouns** that are written in the **first person**.
2. Underline all the **verbs** that are in the **past tense**.
3. Draw a cloud around all the **time connective** words that show how the recount is written in chronological order.

A Trip to the Zoo

Yesterday, my family went to the zoo to see the elephant.

When we got to the zoo, we went to the shop to buy some food to give to the animals.

After getting the food, we went to the nocturnal house where we saw birds and reptiles which only come out at night.

Before lunch we went for a ride on the elephant. It was a thrill to ride it. Dad nearly fell off when he let go of the rope.

During lunch we fed some birds in the park. In the afternoon we saw the animals being fed.

When we returned home, we were tired but happy because we had so much fun.

