

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 Day Visit to Phillip Island

Last week, I went to Phillip Island with my family. My father drove the car. My mother sat beside him. My sister and I sat in the back seats.

We woke up early in the morning. My father prepared the car in the garage while Mum prepared food for breakfast and some snacks for us. My sister and I packed some clothes. After everything got ready and we had our breakfast, we left the house at six o'clock.

It was about nine o'clock when we arrived at Phillip Island. First of all we visited our uncle. We stayed there for an hour. Then we went to the main beach where fairy penguins are known to walk onto the shores every night. We got there at eleven o'clock. There were a lot of tourists because it was the holidays. I saw many foreign visitors too. My parents watched us playing with sand in the beach. We did not swim since the waves were rough and the water was very cold. After having lunch, we went to the nearby parklands for the picnic lunch Mum had prepared. Afterwards, we visited the local shopping centre.

We drove back to Melbourne at 7 o'clock and arrived home at ten. We were tired but happy.

Activity 2: Rewrite the recount so that it is more interesting to read

Your tutor will decide whether you will do this as a class or by yourself but this activity aims to help you practice write a recount which is interesting to read.

OPTION: you can rewrite a paragraph or just a small section. Write this in your notebooks.

You can include some of the following:

- Interesting adjectives and more detailed descriptions of the events that occurred
- Interesting past tense verbs
- Dialogue / conversation

Activity 3: Turn to your homework book for this week's essay topic recount

Your tutor will now explain to you what this week's essay topic is. Your tutor will lead your class in discussion to brainstorm some ideas that you can use in your essay. You will need to write notes down in your books as well. You will be expected to submit a draft **next week** where your tutor will correct it with specific ideas on how you can improve before completing a second and final draft.

It is really important that you do your essay and submit it for marking. Your tutor and your parents feel it is very important to see how that what you have learnt can positively improve your writing skills at NQT Education as well as at your regular school.