

Writing a recount

Day 2



Past tense

When you write about something that has already happened, you need to use the past tense. Many verbs end in –ed when they are changed to the past – walk**ed**, jump**ed**, yell**ed**.

If the verb ends with an ‘e’, when changed to the past, a ‘d’ is often added – agree**d**, believe**d**, deceive**d**.

There are also irregular words that you need to learn about. Here are some examples:

ran, ate, made, woke, told, sang, took, spoke, drank, was, went, sat, drew

Past tense

Read the sentences below and decide which ones are written using past tense.

- Darren is going to walk to the park to meet his friend.
- The tired baby girl cuddled her teddy and cried loudly.
- Harry Potter is one of my favourite fictional characters.
- “How many biscuits have you eaten?” demanded Uncle Phil.
- Thank you for the present that you gave me.
- When caterpillars change into butterflies, it is known as metamorphosis!

Past tense

The sentences that are written using past tense are written in red.

- Darren is going to walk to the park to meet his friend.
- **The tired baby girl cuddled her teddy and cried loudly.**
- Harry Potter is one of my favourite fictional characters.
- **“How many biscuits have you eaten?” demanded Uncle Phil.**
- **Thank you for the present that you gave me.**
- When caterpillars change into butterflies, it is known as metamorphosis!

Past tense

Read the paragraph below and change the verbs in bold to the past tense.

*Charlie usually **wakes** up at 6am on school days. As she **is** a creature of habit, she always **opens** the window to see what the weather **is** like. Then, she **races** to the bathroom, **brushes** her teeth and **makes** her way downstairs to eat her breakfast. She **eats** her cereal quickly and then **drinks** her fresh juice. Once she **is** finished, she **runs** back upstairs to get dressed. Sometimes it **takes** her a long time to style her hair. When she **is** satisfied, she **picks** up her packed lunch and **walks** to school.*



Past tense

Did you make the correct changes? The answers are in red.

Charlie usually **woke** up at 6am on school days. As she **was** a creature of habit, she always **opened** the window to see what the weather **was** like. Then, she **raced** to the bathroom, **brushed** her teeth and **made** her way downstairs to eat her breakfast. She **ate** her cereal quickly and then **drank** her fresh juice. Once she **was** finished, she **ran** back upstairs to get dressed. Sometimes it **took** her a long time to style her hair. When she **was** satisfied, she **picked** up her packed lunch and **walked** to school.



Writing a recount

A recount is written to engage the reader so that it seems as if they are part of the experience with you.

Read this example of a paragraph taken from a recount about a child's first day at a new school.

During the lunch break, I chatted outside in the school garden with Mike, Isma, Louis and Peter. They asked me questions about my old school and I explained that the hardest part was leaving my old friends behind. Suddenly, the whistle blew and it was our turn for lunch. The canteen was huge with long tables spread out around the room. I chose a cheese and pickle sandwich and a peach yoghurt for dessert, then I sat down on one of the little blue seats to eat it all. My new friends sat with me.

Writing a recount

This is the same paragraph from the recount but with more descriptive language and details added. Can you notice the difference?

During the lunch break, I chatted outside in the school garden with Mike, Isma, Louis and Peter. They asked me loads of questions about my old school and I explained that the hardest part was leaving my old friends behind. I told them that my family had moved because my Dad had got a promotion and had to work in a different office. Then we heard the whilst blow and it was our turn for lunch. The canteen was huge with long tables spread out around the room. I chose a cheese and pickle salad sandwich, followed by a peach yoghurt. I sat down on one of the little blue seats with my new friends and ate my lunch. It was quite noisy in there and as I scanned the other tables, it felt strange not to recognise any faces. At that very moment, I missed what was familiar to me.



Writing the main body



Following on from your introduction, you need to decide on the chronological order of the events in the Baboon on the Moon story. Choose a different part of the sequence for each paragraph that you want to write about.

- Getting ready
- Walking to the energy station
- Lighting up the moon
- Playing the trumpet

Remember that you are the baboon...



Writing the main body



Here are some ideas for organising the main body of your recount:

After getting out of bed, I wandered sleepily into the bathroom. The freezing tiled floor sent shivers through my slate grey body. When my reflection in the mirror stared back at me, my red eyes and pink nose shone and my “bed hair” looked wild so I quickly brushed it and cleaned my spiky white teeth.

Glancing at the time on my battered alarm clock, I hurried downstairs and into the tiny dark kitchen. The shrill whistle alerted me that the kettle had boiled so I made my cup of sweet tea, that warmed me as I drank it. My crunchy cereal was tasty but I have the same thing every day, which gets extremely boring. Why was I here on my own? As my thoughts continued, the minutes ticked away and before you could say “Baboon on the moon,” it was time to get to work.



Writing the main body



Here are some ideas for organising the main body of your recount:

By seven o'clock, my battered brown case was packed with everything that was needed to complete my daily mission. Slamming the flimsy front door behind me, I stepped out onto the rough stony surface of the moon's outer crust. Dust clouds rose around me as I shuffled along, dragging the heavy luggage behind me on my way to the familiar power station, where I worked every single day.

Half an hour later, I climbed purposefully up the last slope to reach my destination. Checking the dial revealed that the fuel tank was empty, as it had been each day for as long as I could remember. As the stiff clasp on the old case snapped open, the stained and dented can that contained the precious Moon Shine lay on top of the other contents. Without hesitation, I filled the tank until the red arrow stopped turning.



Writing the main body



Here are some ideas for organising the main body of your recount:

Going into the power station, I started the ancient generator and with a deafening roar, the moon lit up with its spectacular dazzling glow like nothing ever seen anywhere else in the universe!

By the time that I had completed my checks, it was time to survey the light quality. Going back outside, I sat on the stony hard ground and stared at the Earth. As I remembered my family and friends, my sorrow overwhelmed me and salty wet tears ran down my face.

My trusty trumpet always made me feel better so I began to play a tune to everyone that I loved, in the hope that they could hear me so far away on Planet Earth ...



It is now your turn to write the main body to your recount of Baboon on the Moon. You can alter some elements but it still needs to remain similar to the original story. Remember to make it a journey for both you and the reader to take together.

You are the baboon.

It is written in first person and past tense.

Add description, emotive language and use synonyms.

Tomorrow, we will write the final paragraph.