

Exercise 5

Read the article about travel writing.

Write a summary about what you should do AND what you should avoid doing in order to write a good travel article for a website.

Your summary should be about 100 words long (and no more than 120 words long). You should use your own words as far as possible.

You will receive up to 6 marks for the content of your summary and up to 5 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Travel writing

“You write travel articles? Amazing!” This is a typical response when I tell people what I do. Then they often say: “I had a fantastic adventure on my last holiday. Maybe I could write an article about it. Do you have any tips?”

In my experience, there’s no magic formula, but here are some helpful ideas which I recommend for new travel writers.

A trip is a series of events, but people like to read stories. I’m not talking about writing fiction, and, in fact, I’m very careful not to make things up. I think most readers can soon work out when something isn’t true. The challenge, though, is to decide which events from your trip are worth including, because not all of them are. For example, a description of an old man that you saw may be more interesting than the details of your journey to the airport. To get a better idea of what I mean, I would look through some published travel articles and see how other writers do it.

Some trips have a physical objective, like reaching the top of a mountain, while others may be more about discovering what a place is like. In my articles, I tend to use the old travel writer’s trick of choosing an event from later in the trip, and writing about it in the first paragraph. This always works well.

Something else that I’m keen on is not telling the reader what to feel. For example, if I write about skiing at high speed down a mountain, I won’t say: “It was thrilling.” Readers can decide for themselves how they want to respond to an experience.

If I struggle to write the article, as I sometimes do, I will often include dialogue. Which of these two extracts is more interesting to read? “Look! There! The crocodiles are planning when to attack,” whispered Steve. Or this one: “We could see the crocodiles waiting for a good moment to attack.” I know which one makes me want to find out what happened next. When I’m travelling, I note down exactly what people say and do to help me remember the details of situations like this.

One trap that travel writers often fall into is saying things like ‘the view was good’, ‘it was a big market’ or ‘the beach was nice’. Expressions like these have been used thousands of times before, so they lose their meaning and are boring to read. I try to make sure I don’t use them.

So, writing good travel articles isn’t particularly straightforward. You may have a natural talent for it, though, so why not have a go?

To write a good travel article for a website, do the following. Firstly, record people's speech and actions while travelling to assist you in recalling the details of situations. When attempting to write the article, choose the most worthwhile events to include and read through a few previously released travel articles to see how other authors accomplish this. Also, try to adopt a narrative style and select an event from later in the trip and describe it in the first paragraph. Moreover, if you are having trouble writing, incorporate dialogue in the article.

On the other hand, you should refrain from inventing events and directing the reader's emotions. Additionally, stay clear of dull and overused expressions.

Exercise 6

You recently had a problem that you didn't know how to deal with. Fortunately, someone helped you with this problem.

Write an email to a friend about what happened.

In your email, you should:

- describe the problem you had
- explain how someone helped you
- say what you plan to do for this person in return.

The pictures above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your email should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your email, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Dear Tracy,

How did your recent school trip go? I hope you enjoyed yourself. You won't believe what happened to me!

Last Saturday, Ben and I went hiking on a rocky terrain to blow off some steam — you know how much we love hiking. We were about halfway through our path when I tripped over a rock and rolled down the mountain. I felt a sharp, unbearable pain in my left arm and leg, and I found blood trickling down my face. That's terrifying, isn't it? My heart raced and I didn't know what to do. Then, I lost consciousness!

I woke up in a hospital bed, my parents at my side, relieved that I survived. Ben, looking haggard and covered in sweat and mud, had carried me all the way here. He stayed with me, quietly enduring his twisted ankle until my parents arrived. His sacrifice was beyond measure, and I'm forever indebted to him. He's literally a lifesaver, isn't he?

Words can't describe my gratitude to Ben. I'm planning to surprise him by booking an overseas trip to Paris. What do you think? He always fantasized about going there and I thought this was a golden opportunity to buy us tickets! Let me know if you have any other ideas to return the favor.

Anyways, time to dash now; I got to rest up to get well.

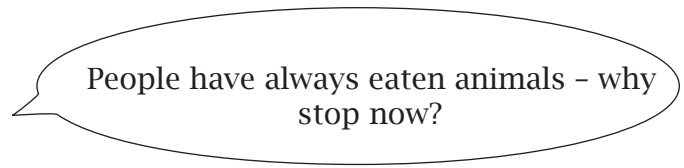
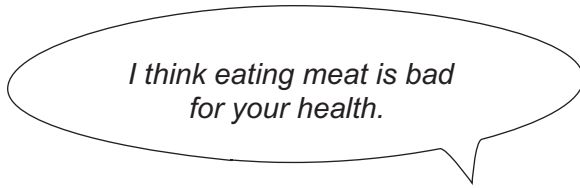
Lots of love,

[Your name]

Exercise 7

Some people think that the world would be a better place if everyone became vegetarian.

Here are two comments from your friends:



Write an article for your school magazine, giving your views.

The comments above may give you some ideas, and you should try to use some ideas of your own.

Your article should be between 150 and 200 words long.

You will receive up to 10 marks for the content of your article, and up to 9 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Have you ever thought about the positive impact you could have on the world by becoming vegetarian? If not, read on to gain a glimpse of the countless benefits of vegetarianism!

First and foremost, a vegetarian diet is far healthier. By adopting a vegetarian lifestyle, your cholesterol level may decrease, ultimately leading to a lower risk of diseases such as diabetes and heart attacks. In addition, there is an increasing amount of evidence that the use of antibiotics and hormones in livestock can pose a risk to humans; by adhering to a vegetarian diet, you avoid this risk.

Moreover, by becoming vegetarian you take a stand against the cruel treatment of cattle during their rearing and their subsequent barbaric slaughter that no one's conscience could cope with. If enough people become vegetarian, the demand for meat could decrease significantly to the point that these unacceptable practices finally come to an end.

Some people argue that the protein we get from meat is indispensable. While it is true that meat is a good source of protein, according to recent research, a vegetarian diet can provide all the essential proteins and nutrients. In fact, plant-based sources such as soybeans have almost as much protein as meat!

In a nutshell, I firmly believe that vegetarianism is a better choice than a meat-based diet as it offers numerous benefits for both personal health and the well-being of animals, among others.