

# Improving your writing in English

## Stages of writing

1/ **Generate ideas** (make a plan / notes).

You can use a Time Line, Sequence Chart, Venn Diagram, Word Web, Describing Wheel or Story map to help you. See attached documents

2/ **Organise and develop ideas** (structure, beginning, middle, end, paragraphs)

- If you are writing a simple story, start by setting the scene (who, what, where, when, why)
- What is the main event?
- What are people's feelings and reactions?
- What is the resolution?
- Aim to write about 4 paragraphs

3/ **Editing** (check grammar, spelling, punctuation)

- Have you used the correct tense?
- Have you included end marks and speech marks?
- Have you used connectives to join sentences together?

## Making your writing more interesting

- Add powerful **verbs**. ~~The lady walked through the mud.~~ The lady **stomped** through the mud.
- Add powerful **adjectives**. E.g. The tower was ~~tall~~. The tower was **gigantic**.
- Add powerful **adverbs**. E.g. ~~The man danced.~~ The man danced **joyfully**.
- Use **connectives** to make your sentences more interesting. (and, but, next, because, so, moreover, however, nevertheless, also, although, when, as well as ...) ~~The children were tired. The children went to the party.~~ Although the children were happy they still went to the party.

## Practicing tenses

- Write about yourself (present simple tense). ***I live, I have, I go ...***
- Describe a picture (present continuous tense). ***The cat is sitting under the tree...***
- Write about your holiday (past simple). ***We played on the beach every day...***
- A detective story (past continuous). ***The girl was waiting for the bus when ...***
- Imagine your life in the future. (future tenses). ***I will live in Vancouver...***

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I have included some writing activities that I found on [www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com)

Please let me know if you find any other interesting websites. ([nkf\\_stevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:nkf_stevenson@hotmail.com))

## Writing activities

1/ Continue the story (from [www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com))

My class took a field trip to Egypt to learn about the ancient Egyptians. We travelled up the Nile River to the Pyramids at Giza. It was a hot, sunny day when the bus arrived at the entrance to the Pyramids. Our class went into the pyramid with a tour guide who showed us through the passages and explained the history of the pyramids. I had a book on hieroglyphics and I found an interesting picture. I looked it up in my book and it said, 'Press here.'...

2/ Continue the story (from [www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com))

When mom came home from her trip to the desert, she brought a smooth, shiny, blue, oval-shaped rock that she found buried in the sand. She thought it was the prettiest thing she had ever seen. Was she ever surprised when the rock began to hatch! Out popped a baby dragon! Well, mom looked at it, and then looked at me and said, 'Happy birthday! You always wanted a pet.' It's true. I did want a pet, but how do you care for a baby dragon?

3/ Writing a letter (from [www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com))

Imagine you are travelling somewhere really exotic like on a volcano, on an island, in a desert, in a jungle, or even on another planet like Mars. Write a short letter to your friend, summarizing what you have done there.

4/ What will school be like in 50 years? How will students learn? What will they learn?  
(from [www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com))

5/ Are you a witch? Would you like to find out? Write down some simple tests to determine if someone is a witch. (from [www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com))

6/ Minutes to Go and Down by 2! There was left than a minute left in the football match and we were down by two goals. And there I was in the open ... (from [www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com))

7/ The Strange Machine. My uncle is an inventor. One day, I was searching through the attic of my Uncle's house. I found a very strange machine with many buttons, knobs, dials, and levers. I had never seen a machine like it before. On one side, there was a button that said 'on'.  
(from [www.bogglesworldesl.com](http://www.bogglesworldesl.com))