

Recount Toolkit



Nursery/Reception	Y1/2: as in N/R & ...	Y3/4: as in Y1/2 & ...	Y5/6: as in Y3/4 & ...
To recount an event:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell the reader where you went or what you did: <i>Yesterday, we went to the zoo.</i> Tell people the order in which you did things by using time openers: <i>First, ... Next, ... After that, ... Finally, ...</i> Describe what you saw: <i>First, we saw a snake.</i> Talk about what images and objects looked like using adjectives (describing words): <i>First, we saw a long snake.</i> Talk about what you liked: <i>I liked the pandas best. They were funny.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose key events that will interest or engage the reader – don't include everything! Put the events in the correct order using time openers (fronted adverbials): <i>First, ... Next, ... Then, ... After that, ... Finally, ...</i> Write about what happened, using verbs in the past tense: <i>went, arrived, climbed, ate, etc.</i> Help the reader picture what happened with carefully chosen adjectives: <i>The ginormous, wooden drawbridge</i> Reveal how you felt about the events through carefully chosen verbs: <i>We raced up the spiral staircase (excited)</i> Add your own comments: <i>I thought the hippos looked amazing because ...</i> Write from your point of view, using first person pronouns: <i>I/me; we/us</i> (for biography writing use 3rd person consistently: <i>he/she; they/them</i>) <p>For news articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage the reader with a snappy headline: <i>Witch Outwitted</i> Write about what has happened to others using the third person: <i>She arrived at her grandmother's cottage ...</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address the reader using the pronoun 'you': <i>You will never guess where...</i> Zoom in on the important events and move the action forward through time openers (fronted adverbials): <i>Whilst, ... Later on, ... That afternoon, ... Eventually, ... Meanwhile, ...</i> Add facts by using specific names of people or places (proper nouns): <i>Our guide, Mr. Jenkins showed us around Knowle House.</i> Include what other people said or thought about what happened (reported speech): <i>Mrs. Cater said that ...</i> Drop in asides, thoughts and relevant details through relative clauses or parenthesis: <i>The castle, which was a bit of a ruin really, was ...</i> <p>For news articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hook and intrigue the reader by creating an interesting or catchy headline through rhyme, alliteration or word play: <i>Boy ... Box ... Baffled!</i> Look ahead to what might happen next by using the present tense appropriately: <i>With residents in uproar, the police are now looking for Kazam's travelling circus that vanished without a trace.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider your audience and vary your tone and formality for a desired effect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> formal and professional for a police witness report, e.g. passive: <i>The crowd were attacked by an army of dragons.</i> formal and friendly when recounting facts for friends: <i>Dragons swooped down and attached the crowd.</i> informal and chatty for diary entries: <i>I couldn't believe how ferocious the beasts were; it was crazy!</i> Entertain the reader by writing about fascinating, surprising or unusual things. Weave in subject-specific and technical vocabulary where appropriate to add precision and accuracy to the description: <i>The tractors ran on diesel fuel and had specially designed caterpillar tracks to climb the steep inclines.</i> <p>For news articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hook the reader/listener by being pacy and adding engaging detail: <i>The council is concerned that this could lead to dragon infestation.</i> Present information in a way that tries to make it as shocking or exciting as possible through exaggeration and hyperbole: <i>The crowd felt like it was about to explode with excitement!</i>

Recount – structure



Nursery/Reception	Y1/2: as in N/R & ...	Y3/4: as in Y1/2 & ...	Y5/6: as in Y3/4 & ...
To structure a recount:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compose a series of simple sentences that tell the reader about what happened, what you did or what you saw. • Describe things in the order you saw or did them, using the time openers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – First, ... – Next, ... – After that, ... – Finally, ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use a simple title: Our trip to the zoo <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the scene by telling the reader: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – when it happened, e.g. Last week, – who was there, e.g. our class – where you went, e.g. went to the zoo – what you went to do, e.g. to learn about animals. <p>Main body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write about what happened, what you did, what you saw and what you learned: First, we saw the tractors. They had enormous wheels. • Add in any personal feelings: It was really exciting! <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add in a personal feeling: What a great day! I am really looking forward to my next adventure. <p><u>For news articles:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hook the reader in one pacy sentence telling the reader the who/what/where/why/when of the latest news: Yesterday, local lumberjack hero Jim Stevenson was awarded a medal at the palace for his bravery in rescuing Little Red Riding Hood from the jaws of a terrifying Wolf. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use an interesting title to catch your reader's interest: Bristol Zoo – the bee’s knees! <p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the scene by summarising the day, including when, who, where, what, why. This could include a personal reflection: What an amazing day! <p>Main body</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write about the event from your perspective: I couldn’t believe that ... • Keep the events in the correct order. You might separate each event in a new paragraph. <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to the reader by using <i>you</i> and suggest why they might be interested in the event: You must buy tickets as you will love the artwork on display! <p><u>For news articles:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hook and intrigue the reader by creating an interesting or catchy headline through rhyme, alliteration or word play: Boy... Box... Baffled! • Include key details of the backstory in the middle paragraph. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manipulate the organisation of your writing to suit the audience: a postcard, letter, diary, autobiography, newspaper report, science experiment, etc. • Experiment with flash backs and forwards: As I jumped from the plane, I pictured how all this had begun ... • Consider how you may feature other non-fiction purposes, such as paragraphs of explanation and information based on what happened as part of the event. • Consider how other purposes can be incorporated as part of the main text or as additional asides. <p><u>For news articles:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End with a pointer that suggests how the news story may continue or how readers may help: If you have any information on the identity of the two criminals, please contact your local police station.