

Diary Writing Mastery with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To understand the features, structure, and linguistic choices required to write a compelling personal diary entry.

Read the front of each card to test your knowledge of diary writing. Flip to see the definition or explanation provided by Max the Monkey. Use these terms to enhance your own creative writing.

What is the primary point of view used in a diary entry?

First-person perspective (using 'I', 'me', 'my', 'we').

Why are temporal connectives essential in diary writing?

They help organise events in chronological order, such as 'Before long', 'Later that afternoon', or 'Following that'.

What does it mean to use 'emotive language' in a diary?

Using words that express feelings, such as 'frustrating', 'exhilarating', or 'melancholy', to show the writer's inner thoughts.

Which grammatical tense is standard for diary entries?

The past tense, because you are recording events that have already occurred.

What is a 'reflective' comment in a diary?

A sentence where the writer considers their thoughts or feelings about an event, rather than just stating what happened.

Define 'chronological' in the context of a diary.

Arranging events in the order in which they actually happened, from the start of the day to the end.

Why might a writer use informal 'colloquial' language in a diary?

Because diaries are private documents, the writer can be more relaxed and use natural speech patterns.

What is the purpose of an 'adverbial of time'?

To specify when an action took place, for instance, 'At the stroke of midnight' or 'During the chaotic morning'.

How do rhetorical questions improve a diary entry?

They allow the writer to express confusion, curiosity, or self-reflection, making the diary feel more like a conversation with oneself.

What is a 'personal pronoun' and why is it important here?

Words like 'I', 'he', 'she', or 'they' that replace names to keep the focus on the people involved in the story.

Explain why a diary entry is considered a recount.

Because its purpose is to retell a series of events for the reader (or future self) to understand what took place.

Why is it important to include a date at the top of a diary entry?

It provides a clear reference point so the writer can track their experiences over time.