Year 6 English: Diary Writing Mastery

Learning objective: To understand the key features, linguistic conventions, and purpose of diary writing to produce effective personal narratives.

Use these flashcards to revise the essential features of diary writing. Read the term on the left, try to recall the definition, then check your answer on the right.

What is the primary purpose of a diary entry?

To record personal experiences, thoughts, and feelings in a private or semi-private format.

Which person should a diary always be written in?

The first person (using pronouns like 'I', 'me', 'my', 'we').

What does 'chronological order' mean in a diary?

Writing events in the exact order they happened, usually following a timeline of the day.

Why do we use emotive language in diary entries?

To express how the writer felt about specific events and to show their emotional state to the reader.

What tense should a diary entry usually be written in?

Past tense, as the writer is reflecting on events that have already occurred.

What is a 'salutation' in a diary entry?

The opening greeting, such as 'Dear Diary' or 'Hello Journal'.

What does it mean to be 'reflective' in a diary?

Thinking deeply about why something happened and how it changed your perspective or feelings.

What is the difference between formal and informal language in a diary?

Diaries use informal or colloquial language because they are personal and conversational, not meant for a public audience.

What is a sign-off?

The closing phrase at the end of an entry, such as 'Until tomorrow' or 'Goodnight'.

How can you use show-not-tell in a diary?

Instead of saying 'I was happy', you describe the physical sensations or actions, such as 'I couldn't stop grinning and my feet felt light as air'.

Why is 'subjectivity' important in diary writing?

Diaries are personal accounts, so they reflect the writer's unique opinions and perspective rather than objective facts.