

Recount Toolkit



When? Who? Where? What? Why?

Building confident writers



Types of Recounts

Personal Recount

Personal recounts retell events that you were personally involved in. These can be based on a recent event or an event that took place months or years ago.

Factual Recount

Factual recounts are based on an incident, such as a science experiment, police report, newspaper report or historical event. These are written using accurate factual details.

Imaginative Recount

Imaginative recounts can be based on an imaginary character. They can include factual information from history, so you could write about life aboard an immigrant ship. They could also be completely imaginary, so you could write about the day you flew the first flying car.



Structure

Orientation—Introduction

When? Who? Where? What? Why?

Last Friday my class went to the museum for a school trip to learn about World War I.

Sequence of event

Write about each event in chronological order.

First Then Next After Finally



Conclusion—Reorientation—Personal Comment

Give your opinion, what you think & feel, about what has happened, or describe the outcome of the event.

It was a very long day but I learnt a lot.

Recount Exemplar

Yesterday, my family and I went to the Auckland Zoo to visit and learn more about the fascinating animals.

Before we arrived at the zoo, my mum fussed about organising a picnic for lunch and making sure we all had sunblock on and that we had our hats. Then we drove to the zoo.

As we arrived we noticed there was a great big line, so we had to wait awhile to get in.

After we entered the zoo, we went straight to the enclosure for the lions. My brother and I were so excited to see them. They were so huge. After that we continued around the zoo until it was time for lunch.

At lunchtime Dad found a good spot to set up our picnic. We ate some cold sausages from last night's BBQ, peanut butter sandwiches, strawberries and mum's delicious chocolate cake.

In the afternoon, we visited the seals and penguins. My brother was excited to see how quickly the seals and penguins swam in the water. He said that this was his favourite enclosure.

At the end of the day when we left, we were going to go and get ice cream but we decided we were too tired so we drove straight home.



Orientation

The orientation gives your audience background information that will help them to understand the text.

When?

On the weekend	At the weekend	On Monday	On Tuesday
On Wednesday	On Thursday	On Friday	On Saturday
On Sunday	During the holidays	At 9am	Last Week
Yesterday	In the morning	In the afternoon	In the evening
On Christmas Day	On my birthday	Before school	Today



Who?

I	our school	my brother	my friend
we	my family	my grandparents	Room ___
our class	my sister	my cousin	my neighbour
my teacher	my mum	my dad	our school

Orientation

Where?

park	museum	outside (backyard)	zoo	Wellington
cinema	swimming pools	hospital	home	Auckland
friend's house	beach	farm	school	Christchurch
Australia	Samoa	Tonga	city (town)	Hamilton

What?

sports event	birthday party	school trip	sleepover
camping	parade	picnic	holiday
pet day/calf day	school fair	shopping	fishing
first day of school	cooking	accident	concert/performance



Why?

for a holiday	to learn about	to celebrate	to spend time with
to compete	to relax	to entertain	to have fun

Language Feature

Connectives

Recounts are written in chronological (time) order and use time words to sequence the events in order. Often these words are used at the beginning of the sentence.

Connectives you could use in your writing

First	While	Initially	Later
Then	At last	Once	Earlier
Next	Eventually	In the end	Soon afterwards
After	Afterwards	Since	Meanwhile
Finally	When	Before	Immediately
Just then	Whilst	In the meantime	In the beginning



Language Feature

Past tense verbs

Recounts tell people about events that have already happened so we must use past tense verbs when we are writing our recounts.

Regular past tense verbs

played	smiled	cried	clapped	looked	hopped	hoped	pulled	yelled
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Irregular past tense verbs

watched	helped	visited	invited	walked	painted	cooked	baked	travelled
sat	brought	bought	drew	fell	ate	gave	ran	swam
dreamt	burnt	rang	took	threw	lost	spent	woke	went



Language Feature

Adverbs, adjectives and figurative language

Use interesting descriptive words (adverbs or adjectives) or phrases (similes, metaphors or idioms) to make your writing lively and entertaining.

Adverbs

impatiently
angrily
bravely
miserably
enthusiastically
nervously
proudly
reluctantly
loudly

Adjectives

damp
noisy
deafening
massive
impossible
fragile
dangerous
scrawny
brehtaking
dense
cloudy
wild
quiet
sore
earsplitting
narrow
worthless



Vocabulary lists

Trip to the zoo/ aquarium

Animals	Animals	People/Places	Verbs
lion	shark	zoo keeper	watched
giraffe	octopus	teacher	completed
penguin	stingray	parents	walked
meerkat	seahorse	friends	pointed
monkey	crab	enclosure	talked
elephant	fish	diver	listened
hippopotamus	downfish	educator	discovered
tiger	turtle	Kelly Tarltons	wrote
zebra	jellyfish	tunnels	explored
orangutans	tropical fish	Marine World	asked
rhinoceros	starfish	rock pool	questioned



Vocabulary lists

Other school trips

Museum/ Gallery	Beach	Botanical Gardens	Farm
Te Papa	rock pool	plants	cattle
M.O.T.A.T	seaweed	natives	sheep
collections	starfish	exotics	goats
exhibition	crabs	nature	chickens
display	shore	habitats	pigs
photographs	creatures	herb garden	machinery
gallery	plants	trees	peacocks
history	habitat	environment	milking shed
artefacts	tide	flowers	shearing shed
fossils	shells	ecosystem	barn



Vocabulary lists

Other school trips

Marae	Stardome	Camp	Camp Activities
pōwhiri	planetarium	sleeping bag	tramping
tangata whenua	astronomy	campfire	abseiling
manuhiri	exhibits	cabin	kyaking
waiata	universe	tents	orienteering
hongi	sun, moon, earth	torch	waterside
assembled	telescope	bunks	flying fox
guests	observatory	bush	hiking
mihimihi	Cornwall Park	sunblock	confidence course
kai	night sky	togs	raft building
called	stars	first aid kit	archery
wharenui	outer space	activities	mountain biking



Vocabulary lists

School sports

Team Sports	Athletics	Swimming	Sport Verbs
netball	discus	freestyle	caught
cricket	shot put	backstroke	bowled
hockey	races	breaststroke	passed
rugby	high jump	butterfly	ran
soccer	long jump	goggles	kicked
referee	first	flutter board	dropped
goal	second	bubbles	watched
whistle	third	floating	defended
captain	metres	diving	saved
coach	track and field	splash	scored
tournament	distance	togs	dove



Vocabulary lists

Special visitors to our school

Visitor	Reason	Places	Verbs
police officer	road safety	school	demonstrated
fire fighters	fire safety	auditorium	informed
life educator	health	classroom	assembled
Harold	education	playground	walked
Ronald McDonald	seatbelts	pedestrian crossing	explained
expert	environment	caravan	showed
author	writing	car park	questioned
performance group	storytelling	courtyard	answered
league player	sportsmanship	school hall	performed
rugby player	challenges	sports field	watched
netball player	to share skills	library	discussed



Vocabulary lists

Science Experiments

Equipment	Describing words	Verbs	Verbs
vinegar	opaque (adj)	examined	observed
baking soda	transparent (adj)	measured	changed
beaker	flexible (adj)	recorded	mixed
food colouring	light (adj)	estimated	tested
thermometer	heavy (adj)	retrieved	watched
container	quickly (adv)	noticed	reflected
gloves	slowly (adv)	labelled	demonstrated
cornflour	gradually (adv)	sketched	dissolved
magnifying glass	loosely (adv)	photographed	placed
syringe	suddenly (adv)	attempted	floated
mirror	wildly (adv)	soaked	travelled

