

Diary Entries

Does your diary entry include...

the date and/or time that the entry was written?	
writing in the first person?	
writing in past tense for main events?	
events written in chronological order?	
personal emotions and feelings?	
paragraphs (including an introduction and conclusion) to organise your writing?	
an informal style of writing?	
time conjunctions and adverbials?	

Introductions

At last, I have been able to...

Dear diary...

It's been a while since I last wrote in here.

I'm not sure where to begin.

Today I received the best news.

What a brilliant day it has been!

You will never believe what has happened!

Emotions Word Bank

appalled astonished content delighted devastated
 elated exasperated flabbergasted frustrated heartbroken
 infuriated jubilant mellow miserable outraged uneasy
 repulsed shattered speechless thrilled

Time Conjunctions

after
 as soon as possible
 at precisely
 before
 beforehand
 finally
 immediately
 in the beginning
 in the end
 just at that moment
 just then
 later
 next
 several months later
 suddenly
 when
 while
 without warning

Adverbials

Adverbials of Time

after that
 following this
 last week
 meanwhile
 only yesterday
 straight away
 this morning
Adverbials of Manner
 as slow as possible
 as quick as a flash
 cautiously
 stupidly
 with hope in my heart
 without hesitation
 without thinking

Adverbials of Place

along the lane
 around here
 back at school
 beyond the wall
 here in this room
 inside the house
 over the street

Adverbials of Frequency

firstly
 frequently
 lastly
 occasionally
 often
 rarely
 sometimes

Key Features

the date and/or time that the diary was written

first person

past tense

chronological order

personal emotions and feelings

introduction

conclusion

informal style

time conjunctions and adverbials

Monday 4th September 1939

Dear diary,

I'm so sorry that I've not written to you for a few days. It's just that so much has happened here. I've barely had the time to digest my meals let alone chatter chatter with you!

Although I miss her dearly, in some ways it feels like years since Mother announced that we were to be evacuated. That ghastly train journey thankfully seems like a distant memory too! Mr and Mrs Farthing have been so kind to George and I and we've loved getting to help on the farm. Honestly though, it's still a shock though to look out of the window and see green grass rather than a smog-filled London.

I'm not certain that the Farthing's two boys are terribly pleased to see us. They get up early to milk the cows and, when they return, barely say a word to us. George tried to get them interested in his picture books last night but they just looked at each other and laughed. I did feel sorry for our George and read an extra two books to him at bedtime to make up for it. By the time I had finished, my voice sounded like a frog and there was barely a wick left on the candle!

This morning, I overheard Mr and Mrs Farthing muttering about the war. I know that I shouldn't've been eavesdropping but we've barely had a scrap of news the whole time we've been here. Anyway, it didn't sound great. Initially, I had hoped that we would be back with Mother before the end of September but that might have just been a naive dream. My heart shattered when I thought about the possibility of spending Christmas away from her. Still, I shan't let George know.

I promise to try and write again tomorrow. Mrs Farthing is going to teach me how to make an omelette with the freshly collected eggs. I can't wait!

Eliza



Key Vocabulary

adverbial: An adverbial is a word or phrase that is used as an adverb to give you more information about a verb or clause.

chronological: If something is written in chronological order, it means that the events are written in the order that they happened in.

first person: Writing from the writer's perspective using the pronouns 'I', 'we', 'me' and 'us'.

informal: Informal writing has a relaxed, friendly style. It is suitable for everyday language and conversation and may use slang words.

past tense: Writing about something that has already happened.

time conjunction: A time conjunction is a single word or phrase that links ideas together and tells the reader when something is happening.