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Jason Renshaw

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The **Boost!** Skills Series is the definitive and comprehensive four-level series of skills books for junior EFL learners. The series has been developed around age-appropriate, cross-curricular topics that develop students' critical thinking and examination techniques. It follows an integrated skills approach with each of the skills brought together at the end of each unit.

The twelve core units in **Boost! Writing 2** follow a clear and transparent structure to make teaching and learning easy and fun. The writing skills build and progress across the four levels of **Boost! Writing** and are correlated to the next generation of tests of English.

You will find the following in **Boost! Writing 2**:

- Age-appropriate and cross-curricular topics
- Models of good writing as well as examples of bad writing
- Writing practice that builds from sentence and paragraph levels to full-length passages
- Activities that provide an opportunity to create a wide variety of text types (essays, letters, emails, etc.)
Unit Topic
Each unit has an age-appropriate and cross-curricular topic.
Students will
- find the topic directly relates to their own lives and study.
- be engaged and motivated to learn.

Writing Skill
A very simple introduction of the targeted unit skill is provided.
Students will
- be introduced to the writing skill in a clear and understandable way.

Before You Write
Samples of good and bad writing are presented with a noticing task.
Students will
- learn to distinguish between good and bad writing.
- discover the writing skill for themselves without the need for long explanations.

Audio CD
The CD at the back of the book provides audio support for all reading passages plus the audio for the Integration listening tasks.
**Writing Practice**
Practice based around a writing model is followed by more personalized writing practice.

**Students will**
- develop the skills needed for accurate and effective writing through model-based practice.
- be able to follow guidance to write their own passages.

**Integration**
The writing skill is combined with listening, reading or speaking tasks.

**Students will**
- produce writing passages based on reading and speaking/listening inputs.
- develop language skills needed for the next generation of integrated tests of English.

**Review**
After every two core units there is a review which consolidates the writing skills already studied.

**Students will**
- be able to see their progress in using writing skills.
- build on previously taught skills to produce accurate writing.
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My Weekend

Unit 1

A. What did you do last weekend? Discuss your answers.

B. Read the emails.

From: Mandy <mandy@adventurez.kids>
To: Julie <julie@adventurez.kids>

Hi, Julie!

Had an interesting weekend with friend. Name is Lucy.

On Saturday visited house.

In the afternoon played games. Also helped mother in the kitchen. Is pretty and very kind. Brother was there, too.

Is younger than and likes video games. Is very noisy.

Friend doesn’t like. House is very big.

Mandy

From: Julie <julie@adventurez.kids>
To: Mandy <mandy@adventurez.kids>

Hello, Mandy!

I’m happy to hear you had an interesting weekend. But I’m so confused! Whose house did you go to—your house or her house? Who is pretty and kind? Whose brother was there? Who is younger? Is the brother noisy, or are the video games noisy? What doesn’t your friend like? I’m sorry—I love getting email from you, but this is really confusing!

Julie

C. Answer the question and follow the instruction.

1. Why is Mandy’s email confusing?

2. Add words to Mandy’s email so that it is easier to understand.
**Writing Skill**

**Using pronouns**

Personal pronouns (he/him, she/her, I/me, you/you, they/them, we/us, it/it) show who is doing what (to who). Possessive pronouns (his, her, my, your, their, our, its) show who something belongs to.

**Writing Practice**

**Complete the passage by using the correct pronouns.**

I my we your his he our they you me him us them it its

---

**My weekend**

On Saturday night (1) stayed up very late watching movies with (2) my friend Tony. (3) watched (4) favorite movie and (5) favorite movie. But after that (6) father told (7) to go to bed. It was 1 a.m. and (8) was trying to sleep!

On Sunday morning (9) went to the park to fly kites. (10) kites looked so pretty flying in the sky! (11) were so high up, (12) could almost not see (13). (14) stayed up a long time too! But then (15) kite got stuck in a tree. (16) couldn’t get (17) out again because (18) tail was caught on a tree branch. A boy in the park helped (19) climbed the tree and got the kite for (21) “Here’s (22) kite,” (23) said. (24) said thank (25) to (26).

On Sunday afternoon (27) went home. What a great weekend (28) was!
Write a sentence about each picture using the correct pronouns and the words given.

1. go / friend / house
   She is going to her friend's house.

2. ride / bikes / park

3. look / new / car

4. give / mother / money

5. play / game / house

6. stuck / kite / tree
Listen and complete the paragraph.

(1) ____________ had a great weekend. (2) ____________ went to (3) ____________

grandma and grandpa’s house. (4) ____________ grandma is a great cook.

(5) ____________ made some fantastic apple pie for (6) ____________ . (7)

cooking is always so delicious. (8) ____________ grandpa likes board games.

(9) ____________ taught (10) ____________ how to play chess. (11)

beat (12) ____________ in one game! Maybe (13) ____________ let me beat

(14) ____________ — (15) ____________ am not sure.

Write a paragraph about your weekend and circle each pronoun you use.

My weekend

By using pronouns, you can talk about the same person, thing, place or idea without repeating the same nouns every time.
What can you see at the circus? Discuss your answers.

Read the passage and choose the best opening sentence.

A Some clowns are really clever. They can do amazing tricks.
B Going to the circus can be a really fun and interesting experience.
C Sometimes there are fire breathers and ice skaters, too.

Circus Fun

First, there are many amazing acts to see. There are acrobats flying through the air, fire breathers and people who can twist their bodies into unbelievable positions!

Second, there are so many creative performances. There are different kinds of music and dance and people wearing colorful costumes. You can also see clowns making silly jokes and doing funny tricks!

Answer the question and follow the instruction.

1 Why is the introduction (opening sentence) you chose the best way to start this passage?

2 Circle the topic sentence of each paragraph.
Writing an introduction

In essays there are three basic parts: the introduction, body and conclusion. The introduction starts the writing and tells us what the writing is about. It can be one long sentence or a short paragraph.

Choose the best introduction.

What is your favorite circus act and why?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction:</th>
<th>A My favorite circus act is the flying trapeze. The acrobats flying through the air are fantastic.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic sentence 1:</td>
<td>First, I'm really into amazing stunts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic sentence 2:</td>
<td>Second, the fire breather is very brave and skillful.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why do people enjoy going to the circus?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction:</th>
<th>A Going to the circus can be very expensive!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Topic sentence 1:</td>
<td>First, there are many different acts to see.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic sentence 2:</td>
<td>Second, almost everyone loves to watch creative performances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic sentence 2:</td>
<td>Second, almost everyone loves to watch creative performances.</td>
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<td>Second, almost everyone loves to watch creative performances.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Write a short introduction and two topic sentences.

What is the most exciting thing to see at a circus?

Introduction:

Topic sentence 1:

Topic sentence 2:

What is the most exciting place in your city?

Introduction:

Topic sentence 1:

Topic sentence 2:

TIP: The introduction shows the main idea of the essay, and the topic sentences support that idea.
**Integration**

Read the passage and choose the best introduction.

**Introduction:**

First, people have a chance to see animals. Maybe they have never seen these animals before. Circuses often have big elephants, fierce tigers, monkeys, horses, dogs, lions and even snakes.

Second, the animals are really talented. The elephants can use their trunks to do tricks. The dogs can jump through hoops or walk around like people. The monkeys can be even funnier than the clowns!

**A** Going to the circus can be a really amazing experience because of the animals there.

**B** The best things about going to the circus are the clowns and acrobats.

**C** I think going to the circus is expensive.

Listen to the passage and take notes. Then choose the best introduction.

**Introduction:**

**Notes:**

- do not take good care of animals
- tied up and can’t move

**A** Going to the circus is a good way to spend your birthday.

**B** Small animals should not be tied up or made to do tricks.

**C** Circuses are bad for animals and we are not helping animals when we go to the circus.

Use the introductions you chose to complete the statements.

1. The writer (Activity F) says that going to the circus

2. However, the speaker (Activity G) says that circuses are
Write a sentence about each picture using the words given.

1. bike / her

2. movie / his

3. school / their

4. father / he
**Choose the best introduction.**

How can you learn about interesting animals?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction:</th>
<th>A We are taking a school trip to a famous nature park next month.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic sentence 1:</strong></td>
<td>B There are special people to take care of the animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First, I can go to a nature park.</td>
<td>C There are many kinds of interesting animals, and we can learn more about them in different ways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Topic sentence 2:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second, I can watch documentaries on television.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Write an introduction and two topic sentences.**

What are two countries in the world that interest you?

**Introduction:**

**Topic sentence 1:**

**Topic sentence 2:**
When do people have parties?
Discuss your answers.

Read the cards.

Invitation
It’s my 12th birthday and I’m going to have a party. I’d like you to be there!
Date: Saturday, September 21
Time: 4:30 p.m.
Place: My house, 2 Creswell Street
Phone: 555-7921

Thank you!
Thank you for the party. It was exciting and fun. The food was really delicious.
Your mother did a great job. Did she cook all that food? Your father was really funny.
He was really kind and his jokes made us all laugh a lot. Thanks again!

Thanks!
My birthday party on Saturday was so much fun. I had a great time.
Thank you so much for coming.
Also, thank you for my present.
I really liked it.
It was a fantastic birthday!

Answer the questions and follow the instruction.

1. Which card was sent first?
2. Which card thanks somebody for a present?
3. Circle the pronouns on each card.
Writing cards for special events

Invitations show important information like the date, time and place of a party. After the party people send thank-you cards to say they enjoyed the event.

Use the sentences from the box to complete the cards.

---

**Invitation**

It’s my 14th birthday and I’m going to have a party. (1)

**Date:** Sunday, June 21

**Time:** (2)

**Place:** Ruby’s Restaurant, 64 High Road

**Phone:** 555-7109

---

**Thanks!**

I had a really fun time. Thank you so much for being there. Also, thank you for my present. (4)

---

**Thank you!**

It was lots of fun. (6)

Your father did a great job. Did he prepare all the balloons and streamers by himself?

Thanks again!
Write your own cards.

1. Write an invitation card to your birthday party.

2. Write a thank-you card to a friend who came to your party.

Tip: Remember to use pronouns to show who is doing what and who something belongs to.
Use the first card in Activity E to invite three classmates to your party, and take notes about their parties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Party:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>Time:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place:</td>
<td>Phone:</td>
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</table>

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<tr>
<td>Place:</td>
<td>Phone:</td>
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</table>

Pretend you have been to one of the parties above. Write a thank-you card to the person who had the party.
A How can we protect the planet? Discuss your answers.

B Look at the brainstorm diagram and read the plan.
What are some of the ways we can protect our planet?

Plan

Title: Protecting our planet

Introduction: We can protect our planet in many ways.

Body paragraph 1: Stop greenhouse gases

   Topic sentence: First of all, we can make less greenhouse gases.
   Details: recycle and use things again, use less coal and oil, invent new clean power

Body paragraph 2: Save animals

   Topic sentence: Second, we can save the animals on the planet.
   Details: protect them from hunters, save the places they live in

C Follow the instructions.

1. On the brainstorm diagram, cross out the ideas the writer chose not to write about.

2. On the plan, circle the introduction and the two main ideas.
Writing about a topic or issue

Brainstorming is very quick thinking and note taking. A plan is an organized outline of the exact things we want to write about. Brainstorming and planning can help us to write clearly about a topic or issue.

Complete the plan.

What are some of the ways people can learn more about our planet?

Learning more about our planet is very important. People can do this in many ways.

First of all, people can visit a museum. There is a lot of useful information there. People can see pictures and ask questions.

Second, people can go out into the countryside. They can see nature with their own eyes. They can see the land and the animals.

Body paragraph 1:

Topic sentence: People can visit a museum.
Details:

Body paragraph 2: Countryside

Topic sentence:
Details: see nature with own eyes, see land and animals
Brainstorm and plan an essay and write it on a separate piece of paper.

What are some ways your family can protect the planet?

**Brainstorm**

When you write the plan, cross out unused ideas on the brainstorm diagram.
Listen and complete the brainstorm diagram. Complete the plan on your own.

How can learning English help children learn more about other cultures?

**Introduction:** Many children learn English these days. This can also help them to learn about other cultures.

**Body paragraph 1:** TV programs

* Topic sentence:

* Details:

**Body paragraph 2:**

* Topic sentence: Second, we can speak English with kids in other countries.

* Details:
A Write an email to your friend and invite him/her to your party.

To:  
Date:  
From:  
Subject:  

B You went to your friend's party yesterday. Send an email to say thank you.

To:  
Date:  
From:  
Subject:  

Brainstorm and plan an essay and write it on a separate piece of paper.

What are some of the ways students can improve their English ability?

**Brainstorm**

**Plan**

**Title:**

**Introduction:**

**Body paragraph 1:**

*Topic sentence:*

*Details:*

**Body paragraph 2:**

*Topic sentence:*

*Details:*
What is a riddle? Discuss your answers.

Read the riddles. Can you guess the answers?

You can find this thing in somebody’s house. It looks like a big white box. It is usually quiet, but if it is old, it can sound like a car engine! It feels cold and smooth on the outside. Inside it looks and smells like a small supermarket.

Answer:

You can find this thing on the beach or on a dinner plate. In the water, it moves like a snake. When it is on the beach, it looks like wet green rope. It feels slimy and smells salty. When it is on a dinner plate, it looks like dark green paper. It feels rough and old. It smells like the sea. If you eat it, it tastes like a vegetable or plant.

Answer:

You can find this thing in the countryside. It is usually very big. If you are on it, you can see very far and hear the sound of birds. You can feel the wind on your face. You can often smell trees and flowers, but near the top you may feel very cold.

Answer:

Follow the instruction.

In each riddle, underline the words used to show how things look, sound, smell, feel, taste or move.
Writing descriptive sentences

To describe things well, use sentences that show how things look, sound, smell, taste or feel. You can use these patterns:

- [thing] + look[s]/sound[s]/feel[s]/smell[s]/taste[s] + (adjective)
- [thing] + look[s]/sound[s]/feel[s]/smell[s]/taste[s] + like + (another thing)

Complete the sentences using words or phrases from the box.

- flowers and fresh rain / salty / little ants / an elephant / big boxes / quite scary / wet green rope / warm and pleasant / tiny

**a**
The seaweed looks like (1) and it smells (2) and the air smells like (6)

**b**
He sounds like (3) when he gets angry, and he looks (4)

**c**
Spring feels (5)

**d**
From above, the buildings look like (7) and the people look (8), moving around like (9)
Write a riddle for each picture.

1. What is it? You can find this!

2. [Computer monitor]

3. [Red chili pepper]

4. [Sugar container]

5. [Sale sign for a store]
Listen and complete the riddles. Then guess the answers.

What is it?
You can find it in (1) ________________________________. It looks like (2) ________________________________, and it can be very (3) ________________________________. It (4) _________________________________.

Answer:

What is it?
You can find this (1) _________________________________. It usually has (2) ________________________________, it makes (3) ________________________________. It is (4) _________________________________.

Answer:

Work with a classmate and come up with your own riddle. Let the rest of the class guess the answer.

What is it?


Answer:
A City of Two Seasons

I live in Singapore. There are two main seasons in my city and they are very different.

First of all, my city has a long dry season.

Second, after the dry season my city has a wet season.

A This is when the big monsoon storms start. The sky is gray all the time. Almost every day you can hear the sound of rain. Often you can see lightning and hear thunder.

B There are many buildings in the city. They look like huge shiny boxes. There is also a lot of traffic, so you can hear the sound of cars and trucks all the time. There are a lot of people, so it often feels crowded, too.

C It is very sunny during this time. The sky is deep blue. You can hear the sound of insects in the trees. The buildings in the city look shiny and bright. People seem happy at this time.

Follow the instruction and answer the question.

1 Circle the introduction of the essay.

2 Which details in the paragraphs you chose support the topic sentences?
Writing body paragraphs

In essays there are three basic parts: the introduction, body, and conclusion. Body paragraphs come in the middle of an essay and give us the main information, details, and examples. Body paragraphs support the big idea in the introduction.

Choose and add details to support the topic sentence of each body paragraph. Circle two ideas that don’t belong.

Chicago in spring and fall

I live in Chicago in the United States. Spring and fall are special seasons in my city.

First, my city has a wonderful spring. It rains a lot, but the rain feels fresh and clean.

Second, my city is a great place to be in the fall. The leaves on the trees turn yellow, red and brown.

- It’s a great time to make a snowman.
- The parks in the city are very green.
- They fall to the ground and look like colorful pieces of paper.
- The wind feels nice and cool after the hot summer months.
- My father’s car sounds very loud.
- Spring makes people happy, so I can hear a lot of people laughing.
Write paragraphs describing your city in winter and summer.

Title →

Introduction →

Winter →

Summer →

Write a title and an introduction that shows your main idea. Write a topic sentence for each paragraph and use details to support it.
**F. Choose the best paragraph to match the topic sentence.**

**The great Canadian winter**

I live in Calgary in Canada. Winter is a great time to be in Calgary!

For a start, the weather is fantastic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>Everywhere you look there are flowers and green grass. You can hear bees buzzing and feel a warm breeze.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>It's very hot and you sweat all the time. It's a great time to go to the beach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>The air smells fresh. Everything looks white and clean. It's also very quiet. The falling snow is very special.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**G. Listen and complete the paragraph.**

**The terrible Canadian winter**

I live in Calgary in Canada. Winter is the (1) ______ time to be in Calgary!

First, the weather makes me feel very sad. The air is so cold you can't even feel your (2) ______ ! Everything looks (3) ______ . It often gets very (4) ______ , so it is (5) ______ at night. The sound of the wind can make you feel (6) ______ .

---

**H. Use the information above to complete the statements.**

1. The writer (Activity F) says that winter is ______ .

2. However, the speaker (Activity G) says that winter is ______ .
Write a sentence about each picture using the words given.

1. look / box

2. sound / robot

3. feel / warm and pleasant

4. smell / sweet and fresh
Choose details to add to each body paragraph.

**Melbourne in summer and winter**

I come from Melbourne in Australia. Summer and winter are very different seasons in Melbourne.

First, my city is not a great place to be in the winter. Usually we do not get any snow, but it rains a lot.

- Everybody seems very happy.
- The sky is deep blue and the air is fresh.
- There is a lot of wind, and sometimes it is very cold.
- You can hear people playing outside.
- The trees look sad and gray.

However, my city is a great place to be in the summer. Summer looks and feels like paradise in Melbourne!

Write one paragraph to describe your city in spring.
What places in the world are popular for tourists to visit? Discuss your answers.

Before You Write

Read the travel webpage.

[Travel webpage content]

Answer the questions and follow the instructions.

1. What are the six different parts of this travel webpage? What does each part tell you?
2. Underline the parts that talk about things you can see, hear, feel, smell or taste.
3. Which sentences begin with action words? Why are they written like that?
**Writing about exciting places**

Travel websites tell us about exciting places to visit. They use good descriptions and give us useful information about what to see and do, where to stay and how to get there.

**Writing Practice**

Plan a travel webpage about a city you know.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td>City and title:</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong></td>
<td>Introduction:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C</strong></td>
<td>What are some things you can see, hear, smell, feel and taste?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>D</strong></td>
<td>What are some interesting things to see and do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong></td>
<td>How can people get there?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F</strong></td>
<td>What ideas do you have for pictures?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Write the travel webpage using the plan in Activity D. Stick or draw pictures in the boxes.

- Amazing sights and sounds
- Lots to see and do
- How to get there

Use large writing for the city name and title.
Make notes about a classmate's travel webpage by asking the questions below.

- What city is your webpage about?

- How do you introduce the city?

- What are some things you can see, hear, smell, feel, and taste in this city?

- What are some interesting things to see and do?

- How can people get there?

Report what you learned about your classmate's travel webpage to the class.
An Interesting Place

What is the most interesting place you have ever seen? Discuss your answers.

Before You Write

Read the passage.

THE HAUNTED HOUSE

Outside our town, there is a spooky old house. I went to see it one time with my friends. We all think the house is haunted!

First of all, from the outside the house looks scary. It is big and made of old gray wood. The windows are all broken and dark. They look like open mouths with sharp teeth. Around the house is a wild garden. The weeds smell bad and they look like snakes on the ground. You can hear strange noises in the garden, too.

Second, if you go inside the house it is even scarier! It is very dark and it is difficult to see—even in daylight. You can hear many creaking sounds. Inside the house it feels very cold—just like being in a refrigerator...

Answer the questions.

1. What do the windows look like from the outside?
2. How does the writer make the garden sound scary?
3. What can you hear inside the house? What does the air inside feel like?
Writing an essay to describe a place

Some essays describe a place in a creative way to help the reader imagine what the place is like. These essays use adjectives to show what things look, sound, smell or feel like.

Plan an essay about an interesting place.

Title:

Introduction:

Body paragraph 1:
   Topic sentence:
   Details:

Body paragraph 2:
   Topic sentence:
   Details:
Write the essay you planned in Activity D.

**Title →**

**Introduction →**

**Body 1 →**

**Body 2 →**

**Tip**
Use adjectives to make your sentences descriptive.
Read the topic and look at the brainstorm diagram. Listen and complete the writing plan.

Write an essay about a very exciting place.

**Title:**

**Introduction:** In our city there is a really amazing amusement park. I've been

It is a

**Body paragraph 1:** Roller coaster

Topic sentence:

Details: hear the sound of screams, feels just like flying, sit in the front—even scarier

**Body paragraph 2:**

Topic sentence:

Details: looks like a huge wheel,

Use the plan to write an essay on a separate sheet of paper.
Sensational Stockholm –
City of history and charm!

This is Stockholm! (1)

It's the most beautiful city in Sweden, so (2)

Amazing sights and sounds

(3)__________________________ beautiful

old buildings that look like they are floating on the water. Listen to
(4)__________________________ in the outdoor
restaurants. (5)__________________________ the
delicious fresh fish and potato dishes!

Where to stay

There are thousands of hotels to choose from. (6)

or huge modern hotels with all the luxuries!

Lots to see and do

Tour the amazing Djur Island, Europe's best outdoor zoo. Watch the colorful boats on the waterfront. (7)

—and feel like you have stepped back in history!

How to get there

(8)

Fly to Sweden's international airport outside Stockholm.
Plan an essay about the topic. Then write one of the body paragraphs.

Write an essay about a place you went to last summer. Describe two different parts of the place.

**Plan**

**Title:**

**Introduction:**

**Body paragraph 1:**

- Topic sentence:

- Details:

**Body paragraph 2:**

- Topic sentence:

- Details:
Who are your favorite actors? Discuss your answers.

Daniel’s magic!

I think Daniel Radcliffe is the perfect person to play the role of Harry Potter.

First of all, I believe Daniel is a good actor. He acted in some television movies before, including “David Copperfield.” His father owns a show business company and his mother is a casting agent (which means she chooses actors for movies and plays).

Second, in my opinion Daniel looks a lot like the Harry Potter character in the books. He has dark hair and big eyes just like Harry Potter. I think Daniel looks smart and naughty. Harry Potter is smart and naughty, too. The movie director and even the writer J.K. Rowling said that Daniel looks just like Harry Potter.

In conclusion, I think Daniel Radcliffe is the best actor to play Harry Potter.

Follow the instructions.

1. Circle the sentences where the writer shows an opinion.
2. Underline the sentences where facts are shown.
Writing facts and opinions

Sometimes when we write something, we want to show facts—things that most people can agree are true or real. We can also show readers our opinions—what we think. To show an opinion, you can use opinion phrases like I think, I believe, and in my opinion.

Rewrite the sentences using different opinion phrases.

1. Katie Leung is a talented actor.
   
2. She is perfect for the role of Cho Chang.
   
3. Katie looks very smart.
   
4. She will be really famous someday.
   
5. She didn’t get the role very easily.

Try using this:
I don’t think he/she/it...
Write a fact and an opinion about each of the Harry Potter actors.

1. Rupert Grint (Ron)
   
   Fact: He has red hair and blue eyes.
   
   Opinion: I think he is funny and a good actor.

2. Alan Rickman (Snape)
   
   Fact: 
   
   Opinion: 

3. Emma Watson (Hermione)
   
   Fact: 
   
   Opinion: 

4. Emma Thompson (Trelawny)
   
   Fact: 
   
   Opinion: 
My favorite Harry Potter actor is Tom Felton. He plays Draco in the movies. I think Tom is (1), He started acting when (2), He has been in some (3), too. Second, I believe (4) for the role of Draco. Tom is (5), but he plays an evil character. His acting is (6).

Work with a classmate. Read the facts and opinions you wrote in Activity E on page 51. Write down each other’s sentences.

1. Rupert Grint plays Ron in the Harry Potter movies. He has red hair and blue eyes. I think he is funny and a good actor.

2. plays in the Harry Potter movies.

3. plays in the Harry Potter movies.

4. plays in the Harry Potter movies.
Superheroes

Who is your favorite superhero? Discuss your answers.

Before You Write

Read the passage and choose the best sentence to finish it.

I think the Superman movie *Superman Returns* is really fantastic.

First, I think it has a great storyline. Superman comes back to Earth after five years. When he gets back, he makes a huge discovery. Also, the bad guy Lex Luthor has a new plan to take over the world, but Superman stops him!

Second, the movie has really amazing special effects. Superman really looks like he can fly. His special "heat vision" seems so real. Also, Superman is bulletproof!

A In conclusion, I think the movie is boring and not very interesting to watch.

B All in all, *Superman Returns* is a terrific movie.

C To conclude, I think the Superman movie *Superman Returns* is really terrible.

Answer the question and follow the instruction.

1. Why is the conclusion (finishing sentence or paragraph) you chose the best way to end this essay?

2. In the essay, circle the topic sentence of each paragraph.
### Writing a conclusion

In essays there are three basic parts: the introduction, body and conclusion. The conclusion finishes the writing and summarizes the main ideas. It should restate the information in the introduction, but not repeat it exactly.

### Writing Practice

#### Read the plan for each essay and choose the best conclusion.

**Do you think Superman is a special hero? Why or why not?**

**Introduction:**
I think Superman is a very special hero.

**Topic sentence 1:**
First, he has amazing powers.

**Topic sentence 2:**
Second, he always tries to help people.

**Conclusion:**  

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>All in all, I don’t think Superman is special at all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>He can see through walls. He can burn things with his eyes. He can lift very heavy things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>In conclusion, I believe Superman is a hero everyone can like. That makes him special.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Do you like going to the movies? Why or why not?**

**Introduction:**
In my opinion, going to the movies is not much fun.

**Topic sentence 1:**
First of all, I think it’s always very crowded and noisy.

**Topic sentence 2:**
Second, I feel watching DVDs at home is more fun.

**Conclusion:**  

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>To conclude, going to the movies is not much fun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>To sum up, I don’t think going to the movies is the most fun way to watch a movie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>There are so many people waiting in line. The chairs are small and tight. People talk too much.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Write an introduction, two topic sentences and a conclusion.

Do you like comic books? Why or why not?

Introduction:

Topic sentence 1:

Topic sentence 2:

Conclusion:

Do you think it would be good to have super powers? Why or why not?

Introduction:

Topic sentence 1:

Topic sentence 2:

Conclusion:

Use these expressions: In conclusion / To conclude / To sum up / All in all.
Many students read comic books these days. I don’t think it is a good idea for students to read comics.

For a start, it is a waste of time. Students are busy and have a lot of homework to do. Reading comics is bad for their education.

Second, comics don’t teach anything. Children start to dream about having super powers. However, in real life they will never have these powers. Comics don’t teach us things that are useful.

**Conclusion:**

First, I think comic books have creative stories where things can happen. In addition, we can read about a lot of

Therefore, I think comic books help us to think more creatively.

Second, I believe that comics are good for students who

Comics have a lot of really and not too many words to read. This makes some students feel

**Conclusion:**
Write a sentence about each picture using the words given.

1. think / wizard
   
2. opinion / ice cream
   
3. believe / castles
   
4. think / unicorns
Choose the best conclusion for the topic.

Which Superman ability do you think is the best and why?

**Introduction:** I think flying is the best Superman ability.

**Topic sentence 1:**
First, I believe flying could make me feel free.

**Topic sentence 2:**
Second, I think flying can get me to places quickly.

**Conclusion:**
A) To conclude, I think flying is the best Superman ability.
B) To sum up, flying is the best Superman ability to have in my opinion.
C) In conclusion, super human strength is the very best Superman ability.

Write an introduction, two topic sentences and a conclusion.

How do you think Superman could help you if he was your friend?

**Introduction:**

**Topic sentence 1:**

**Topic sentence 2:**

**Conclusion:**
Opinions Online

A How do people give their opinions online? Discuss your answers.

B Read the online article and comments.

Bullying a problem at school

Bullying is still a big problem at schools. More than 25% of students have been bullied at school in some way. More than 50% say they have seen somebody being bullied. Sometimes older students want other students to give them lunch money or other belongings. In some cases, bullies just pick on students who are quiet or different. These students say they feel scared at school, and it stops them from studying well.

Comments Post your comment

I think schools should do a lot more to stop bullies. For a start, there should be more teachers out in the schoolyard to stop bullies. Also, the school should call the parents of bullies to explain their behavior. Lastly, bullies should be punished more strongly. To sum up, schools should try harder to stop them.

Linda, 12, North Carolina, USA

Bullies are bad, so bad. They are mean.

Terry, 11, London, UK

C Answer the questions and follow the instructions.

1 Who showed their opinion better, Linda or Terry? Why do you think so?
2 Underline the words Linda used to show order (first, second ...) and opinions. Circle her conclusion.
Responding to online articles

Explaining your opinion online is not like writing an essay. The writing is shorter and less formal. You do not need to write an introduction. However, using a topic sentence and a good conclusion make your opinion stronger.

Complete the comments by using words from the box.

Second / All in all / I believe / I think / First of all / In my opinion / To sum up / Also / For a start

Homework horrors

Most students have never liked doing homework. However, there is some bad news on the way. Some schools are saying they want to give students more homework than before. They are doing this to prepare elementary school students better for high school.

Comments Post your comment

(1) __________________________ , students these days do not need more homework. They need less! (2) __________________________ , too much homework is really unhealthy. It stops students from playing and exercising. (3) __________________________ , homework is boring and makes students feel sad and stressed. (4) __________________________ , (5) __________________________ students already have too much homework.

Mark, 11, Bangkok, Thailand

(6) __________________________ it is a good idea to give more homework to elementary school students. (7) __________________________ , students play too much and waste their time. (8) __________________________ , being better prepared will help students not feel too stressed when they reach high school. (9) __________________________ , more homework will help students a lot.

Tina, 13, São Paulo, Brazil
Write your own comments.

Private tutors on the rise

More and more parents are paying for private tutors to help their children do well in school and pass important tests. The number of parents that use private tutors for their children has nearly doubled in the past three years. The most common subjects for private tutors to teach are math, science and English.

Superman returns with a bang

The movie Superman Returns opened in movie theaters across the country last week. Theaters in many parts of the country reported record numbers of people going to see Superman in action. After the movie, one viewer said, “That is the best movie I have seen all year.” Another viewer, however, felt the movie was “boring and too long.”

Remember to include your name, age, city and country.
Ask three classmates their opinions and take notes.

What do you think of getting more homework? Why?

Student 1:

Student 2:

Student 3:

Write a paragraph about your classmates' opinions from Activity F.
Why do you think dinosaurs are extinct? Discuss your answers.

Before You Write

Read the passage.

Do you think it would be good to have dinosaurs living today? Explain your opinion.

No dinosaurs today!

Many people think dinosaurs are extinct. I do, too. But, I don’t think it would be good to have dinosaurs living today.

First of all, I don’t think there would be enough space for dinosaurs.

They are really big creatures and they need a lot of room to move around. And, they would use the space that other animals need.

Therefore, I believe many other animals could become extinct. But they are interesting creatures. Dinosaurs are really dangerous! They could damage buildings and cars. Much eat meat, so may try to eat people if he get hungry.

Dinosaurs died long ago. Even the gentle plant-eating dinosaurs would be dangerous. They could step on people and crush them!

To conclusion, I don’t believe it would be good to have dinosaurs living today.

Look at each correction and discuss why it was done.
What killed the dinosaurs?

I think the dinosaurs are killed by an asteroid.

I think the asteroid destroyed many thing. It was very hot and burned much tree. [Trees are very beautiful]. And it made big waves that turned into floods. These things killed many dinosaurs. Second, the asteroid make a very big dark cloud. This stopped all the sunshine. [Maybe the dinosaur babies were scared of the dark]. The plant couldn't grow for a long time, so the dinosaurs had no eat. So all the other dinosaurs died, too. In conclude, I believe a big asteroids is the reason why the dinosaurs are extinct today.
Write an essay about the topic. Edit your writing for mistakes.

Do you think dinosaurs are interesting? Why or why not?

Title

Introduction

Body 1

Body 2

Conclusion

Brainstorm and plan your essay on a separate piece of paper. Use topic sentences that show your opinion, supported with details.
Do you think it would be good to have your own dinosaur as a pet? Why or why not?

**Brainstorm**
- big and strong
- scary
- protect my house
- thieves
- when it sleeps
- what it likes to do
- very special
- play together
- learn a lot
- how to feed it
- not like other pets
- impress friends

**Plan**

**Title:** Dinosaur – A great pet

**Introduction:** People have many pets. I think a dinosaur would be

**Body paragraph 1:** Learn a lot

  **Topic sentence:**

  **Details:** when it sleeps and eats, what it likes to do, how to feed it

**Body paragraph 2:**

  **Topic sentence:**

  **Details:** big and strong, looks scary, protect against thieves

**Conclusion:** To sum up, I can learn a lot from a dinosaur and it could protect my house. Therefore, I believe

**Use the plan to write an essay on a separate piece of paper.**
A. Complete the comment with opinion phrases and words that show order.

**Cirque in town**

Cirque du Soleil, the famous modern circus from Montreal in Canada, arrived in town this week. Their show, *Dralion*, is a combination of Eastern and Western art, music, dance and their amazing circus acts. Tickets are selling fast and people seem very excited to see the show.

**Comments**

, Cirque du Soleil is the best circus act ever.  
, they don’t use animals in their shows, and I like that because it is cruel to use animals in shows for people.  
, I heard that the dancing and music are truly spectacular.  
, it is going to be the best act in town.

*Melissa, 12, Cape Town, South Africa*

B. Write your own comment.

**More trees for schools**

The government has decided to make schools prettier and healthier by planting more trees. Each school will receive young trees and seeds. Students and teachers at each school will help plant the trees. Later, students will need to water and take care of the trees.

**Comments**
No cloning dinosaurs!

Some people want to clone dinosaurs. I don’t think it is a good idea.

Cloning is not a good thing to do. Many people say cloning are dangerous. And, if we clone dinosaurs and it works, maybe scientists will want to start cloning people, too. I think dinosaurs can’t live in the worlds of today. I think dinosaurs would hurt people. It would hurt or kill much other animal, too. In a summation, I don’t think it is a good idea to clone dinosaurs.
Title:

Introduction:

Body paragraph 1:
  Topic sentence:

  Details:

Body paragraph 2:
  Topic sentence:

  Details:

Conclusion:
Email

To: ____________________________
From: __________________________
Date: __________________________
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# Boost! Writing 2 Audio CD

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<th>Duration</th>
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