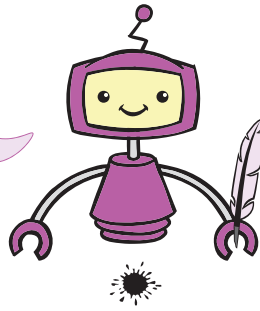


Those were the days

Do you ever reminisce about the good old days? Often, we associate reminiscence with older people, but young people, too, reflect on and remember the experiences of the past. Let's find out more about reminiscing ...



LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 16

Learning Object 4: *Farewell movie*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 3

Module 4 Work Sheet 2: *Blueprint for fun*

Module 5 Work Sheet 1: *Pleased to meet you*

Module 9 Work Sheet 4: *Life writing*

Module 14 Work Sheet 5: *Stranger in a strange land*

1 In a faraway land

In this work sheet, you will be guided through the process of writing about a place you once visited.

You have already learned about travel writing in Module 14, Work Sheet 5, *Stranger in a strange land*. In that work sheet, you learnt about the value of calling on each of your senses when describing a place.

You also learnt that writing about travel often includes the following features:

- It is usually written in the first person.
- It is usually written from the perspective of an 'outsider', such as a tourist or explorer.
- It is usually written for readers who are unfamiliar with the place that is being described.
- It can feature discussions of various aspects of place, such as landscape, people, places, events and objects.
- It is usually written in the past tense.
- It is often accompanied by illustrations such as maps, photographs or drawings.

Most travel writing, in other words, is a type of formal reminiscence, in which the writer shares their memories with the reader.

Features of reminiscence

When you reminisce about your experiences, however, you add some other features to your writing including:

- a sense of the emotional, psychological or educational impact that the travel had on you; that is, a sense of what you learnt, or how the experience has changed you and your perception of the world
- a sense of story. Usually, the story has a beginning in which you describe arriving in the country (or why you went there), a middle in which you outline the key experiences you had, and an ending in which you come home, or leave the country.

The key to a reminiscence is that it includes many of the features of both memoir and travel writing, because it is both about you and your experiences, and about the place to which you travelled.

Avoiding clichés

One of the ways you can improve the quality of your writing is to avoid the trap of writing in clichés. Clichés are well-worn phrases or other snippets of language which have been over-used, and have lost their impact. Many clichés have been used in travel writing about Australia, including 'dusty outback' and 'golden beaches'.

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Before you begin writing, it is a good idea to list as many travel-writing clichés as you can for the place you are writing about. This has two effects — first, it makes you conscious of these clichés, and the need to find fresh, new ways to describe what you heard,

saw or felt. Second, it provides you with a handy list of phrases to avoid to make your writing shine with originality.

Exercises

Exercise 1

In this work sheet, you will be guided through the process of writing a reflective essay on a travel experience you have had. It doesn't need to be about overseas travel. Perhaps you have travelled within Australia during a holiday, or even just a day trip.

The first step is to recall as many details as you can about the place you visited.

As you did when you were planning your travel story in Module 14, you will note a few details related to each of your senses. This time, however, an extra block has been added. This is for you to think of words, phrases or images that relate to your feelings or thoughts about your destination.

Yang bisa dilihat

Yang bisa dipegang

Yang bisa didengar

(continued on following page)

Yang bisa dirasakan

Yang bisa dicium

Pikiran dan perasaan

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Exercise 2

Planning is about organising your impressions into a narrative with a beginning, a middle, and an end, as outlined in Block 1.

Use the blocks below to make notes about your beginning, middle and ending. Some prompts have been provided to help you with each section.

Remember that your final piece of writing will be in Indonesian, so try to do as much of your planning as you can in Indonesian.

Hint! The *beginning* should establish the where, when and why of your travel experience. A well-structured travel experience would also include a thematic statement that suggests the underlying themes of your narrative.

Bagian awal

Isi

Hint! The *middle* of your article should lay out your experiences in a logical order. You could organise your paragraphs chronologically, or in a thematic order. Each paragraph of the middle section should contribute to building a rich, comprehensive narrative about your experience.

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Bagian akhir

Hint! The *ending* should bring together the themes of your narrative in an emotionally satisfying way. In this piece, the focus is on the impact that travelling has had on you as an individual. The focus will probably be on how you were changed by your experience.

Exercise 3

How wonderful! You have built up a great pool of resources to use while writing your article. You have a whole swathe of images to draw on, and a clear plan.

Hopefully, the different sensory impressions you had have also helped you remember what it was really like to travel to your destination.

In Indonesian, write an article in which you reminisce about your travel experiences in order to entertain readers, and share what you have learned from the experience. This is an extended piece of writing.

Do not be afraid to share your thoughts and feelings about what you experienced, but aim for a balance between abstract ideas and vivid sensory details.

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