

HOW TO WRITE A DIARY ENTRY

A. Read these 3 diary entries.

① { Saturday, June 13th, 1942

② { Dear diary,

On Friday, June 12th, I woke up early at six o'clock; it was my birthday. I'm not allowed to get up then, so I had to wait until quarter to seven. Then I went down to the dining-room, where Moortje, my cat, welcomed me. At seven I went in to Mummy and Daddy, and then to the sitting-room for my presents. The nicest present was you – my diary! There was a bunch of roses on the table, and lots more flowers and presents arrived for me during the day. Daddy and Mummy gave me a blue blouse, a game and a bottle of fruit juice which tastes quite like wine!

At school, I shared out some cakes with my friends, and I was allowed to choose the game that we played in the sports lesson. Afterwards, all my friends danced round me in a circle and sang 'Happy Birthday'.

③ { Anne

Thursday, October 1st, 1942

Dear diary,

Yesterday I was very frightened. At eight o'clock the doorbell suddenly rang. I thought that the Germans were coming to get us. But everybody said that someone only rang for a joke, or that maybe it was the postman, and I felt calm again.

Peter can be very funny sometimes. We both like to dress up in silly clothes. One evening, he put on one of his mother's tight dresses, and I wore his suit! Everyone laughed so much!

Miep bought new skirts for Margot and me at The Bijenkorf (A large shop in the centre of Amsterdam). They look like potato bags!

Anne

Wednesday, January 13th, 1943

Dear diary,

Terrible things are happening outside. People are being pulled out of their homes and arrested. They have to leave with only a small bag and a little money, but even that is stolen from them. Families are separated. When children come home from school, their parents have disappeared. The sons of Christian families in Holland are also sent to Germany.

Everyone is frightened. Every night, there are air raids. Hundreds of aero planes fly over Holland to drop bombs on German cities. Every hour, hundreds or maybe thousands of people are killed in Russia and Africa. The whole world is at war. Although the Allies are doing better now, the end of the war is nowhere in sight.

We are luckier than millions of people. It is quiet and safe here. We have money to buy food. We're selfish – we talk about 'after the war', and we look forward to new clothes and shoes. But we should save our money to share with others later.

The children round here only have thin shirts and wooden shoes - no coats or socks. There is no one to help them. They are always hungry, and ask people on the streets for bread. I could tell you more about the suffering that the war has brought, but it would make me too sad. All we can do is to wait patiently until it is over.


Anne

B. Focus on the first diary entry and say what each number corresponds to.

1.
2.
3.

C. Now, concentrate on the three entries and determine what the highlighted elements refer to.



TRAINING TASK

Write a diary entry from the point of view of Bruno who has just arrived in his new home in Poland. Don't forget to mention his reactions and feelings (about 150 words).

Write about:

- ⇒ your new home ;
- ⇒ your friends in Berlin ;
- ⇒ the soldiers ;
- ⇒ the people in striped pyjamas.

Feelings? sadness, despair, anger, hopelessness, fear....

You can use this copybook page as a draft.

