

Write about a stranger who left a deep and lasting impression on you because of his or her actions.

He came, he saw, he helped. Then, he left without even telling us his name. To this day, I still remember his face and mannerism vividly. How could I ever forget him and the kindness he showed us?

It was during the March holidays and my mother and I were on our way to Malaysia to visit my aunt. We were in high spirits and the mood was set for an enjoyable day. Unfortunately, halfway through our road trip, one of our car tyres was punctured in the middle of the highway. As my mother did not know how to change a car tyre, we had no choice but to seek help. For almost an hour, we waved at every passing vehicle but no one slowed down, much less stopped. As if the situation could not get any worse, the weather changed suddenly. Thunder rumbled and lightning cracked open the ashen sky. Dark ominous clouds gathered overhead as rain threatened to fall.

"Where are all the helpful people! I can't imagine being stranded here for hours!" I began to whine.

Just then, a screech of brakes was heard.

A battered old truck stopped a few centimetres ahead of me and out came a towering man with broad muscular shoulders and strong heavily-tattooed arms. His weather-beaten skin was as coarse as an alligator's and he had a pock-marked face that looked like a pimple plantation. His eyes were so tiny that they were almost non-existent and his bulbous nose had the shape of a large garlic clove. To put it plainly, he was ugly and formidable looking. "Do you need help?" the intimidating stranger asked in a gruff voice.

An irrational fear overwhelmed me, causing my heart to palpitate so fast that it might just leap out of my mouth. Instinctively, I moved behind my mother for protection.

"Ermh... yes please. Our tyre is punctured," my mother muttered hesitatingly after what seemed like eternity.

Without a word, the stranger walked back to his beat-up truck and took out a toolbox. Taking the spare tyre from my mother, he flashed us an enigmatic smile and started work. We stood near him uneasily, half thankful and half suspicious of his motives.

Minutes passed and a gentle drizzle began to drift down from the darkened sky. Heat was instantly radiated from the ground as the light drizzle cooled the surroundings. My mother immediately told me to get into the car while she took an umbrella to place over the stranger to prevent him from getting wet. However, as the rain got heavier, my mother also came into the car at the stranger's bidding.

"It's okay. There's no point in you standing here and getting wet too," he said, his coarse voice muffled by the pelting rain.

For the next ten minutes or so, we sat silently in the car and watched the good Samaritan fix our tyre. He was focused on the task even though the wind had grabbed the umbrella and he was drenched to the skin.

When he was finally done, he simply knocked on the car window and said casually, "Your car is good to go."

Before we could utter a word of thanks, he turned around and hopped into his truck. Then he left as quickly as he came. Just like that.

This mysterious man has left a deep and lasting impression on me because he has taught me two valuable life lessons. Firstly, he has taught me not to judge a book by its cover. When I first saw him, I instantly associated him with criminals. Nevertheless, he turned out to be the kindest person I have ever met. Thanks to him, I no longer form an opinion about others just because of the way they look. More importantly, he has taught me what it really means to help others. There are people out there who are willing to help those in need without asking for anything in return. These are the people who make the world a better place with their kindness and consideration. Although our encounter was brief, I will never forget this memorable character who gave my mother and me a helping hand and so much more.

WHAT IS A RECOUNT?

A recount retells an experience or an event that happened in the past. The purpose of a recount can be to inform, entertain or to reflect and evaluate.

A recount can focus on a specific section of an event or retell the entire story. A recount should always be told in the order that things happened.

There are five types of recount to consider.

PERSONAL RECOUNT

Retells an activity the writer has been personally involved in and may be used to build the relationship between the writer and the reader e.g. anecdote, diary journal, personal letter. These usually retell an event that the writer was personally involved in.

FACTUAL / NEWSPAPER RECOUNT

Reports the particulars of an incident by reconstructing factual information e.g. police reconstruction of an accident, historical recount, biographical and autobiographical recounts. A factual recount is an objective recount of a true event by someone not personally involved in the situation. Its purpose is either to inform, entertain or both.

RECOUNTS CAPTURE A MOMENT IN TIME FOR YOUNG WRITERS

IMAGINATIVE RECOUNT

Applies factual knowledge to an imaginary role in order to interpret and recount events e.g. A Day in the Life of a German soldier, How I manned the first mission to the moon. An imaginative recount is the re-telling of events, usually in the first person. This style of recount allows for embellishment beyond facts and events- perfect for creative writing.

LITERARY RECOUNT

Retells a series of events for the purpose of entertainment. A literary recount is like a factual recount. Both provide details about what happened, including who was involved, when and where the event took place, and what may have resulted. A literary recount can be about real or fictional events and characters.

Useful words/phrases/expressions in composition writing

Use words that appeal to the senses

- a. The leaves rustled in the trees and the trees swayed slightly, making groaning heavy sounds. The twigs crackled, snapped and sputtered.
- b. The bells pealed through the clatter and the children shuffled back to class.

Use dialogues

- a. "Nag, nag, nag! That's what I hear all day!" he grumbled.
- b. "What do you expect?" cried his wife angrily. "Four mouths to feed, and another on the way, and all you do is idle about all day with your friends!"
- c. "Guess what!" I cried triumphantly, holding up the letter. "I've won it!"

"Won what?" asked my mother.

"The scholarship!" I shrieked in my excitement.

d. "Who do you think you are?" he sneered, looking me up and down.

e. "My daughter, my beautiful daughter," I murmured bitterly, my lips quavering, as tears welled up in my eyes.

Write interesting descriptions of people

Appearance – draw attention to certain vivid features

i. When he laughed, he revealed a set of horribly discoloured teeth.

ii. Everybody stared at her. She had beautiful dark hair piled high on her head, a delicately shaped face, large soft eyes and the most dazzling smile I had ever seen.

Personality or character

i. For years she had lived with her aunt, a bad-tempered, acid-tongued woman who made her life miserable.

Write vivid descriptions of feelings

a. He sat by the hospital bed, holding her hand. It was clear that the end was near. Tears welled up in his eyes and silently coursed down his cheeks.

"Please forgive me," he said, choking with grief.

b. She ran breathlessly to him with the good news. As soon as he heard it, he leapt into the air with a whoop of joy.

"Wonderful! Marvelous! Unbelievable!" he kept shouting.

Then he turned to her and swept her up in his arms.

Lively style

Begin each sentence differently from the previous one.

i. I opened the door and walked straight into the room. There was Pei Yan sitting by the chair, waiting for me. Quickly rising from her chair, she came towards me.

Use rhetoric question (questions that do not require an answer)

i. She thought of the unlucky happenings that had just befallen her – her failure in the examinations, her mother's illness, and her father losing his job. How could anyone be so unfortunate?

Use words that are highly descriptive, vivid and forceful

i. The place was eerily quiet. All around us was a deathly silence. Suddenly it was broken by a mournful cry. It did not even sound human. We looked at each other, terror-stricken, then made a dash for the door.

Use effective adjectives

i. The forbidden words : good, bad, happy, sad, nice

ii. Nice book: thrilling book

iii. Good speech: witty speech

iv. Selfish: egoistic/self-centred

Substitute over-used adverbs

i. Very: extremely, astonishingly, shockingly

Good expressions for describing sadness

1) Tears trickled down my face.

2) His face was grave, abstracted, almost could have fancied sad.

3) My heart was in my mouth, and the dread I felt was palpable.

4) He was disconsolate and without hope because of the loss of his mother.

5) "will you miss me?" I asked with a tinge of sadness.

6) He sauntered into the class gloomily.

7) Her eyes were puffy with a trace of wetness around the lids.

8) Jane blinked back tears that threatened to overcome her.

9) The great pain and sorrow totally shattered her.

10) The sorrow seemed to diminish everyone physically.

11) She committed suicide during a fit of depression.

12) The news cast a gloom over the entire family.

13) He was overcome by melancholy when his mate died. He has been moping about the house ever since.

14) He was in low spirits because he was accused of cheating.

15) She composed herself and wiped the tears away.

16) Her throat was too raw with pain for her to speak.

17) He waited forlornly outside the house, despite the pouring rain.

18) Nothing we did could lift him out of his state of deep gloom.

19) When he left, she sank into melancholy.

20) "He's left me," she revealed in a small, stricken voice.

21) He was extremely distressed by the bad news.

- 22) My heart sank. A sudden loss came over me.
- 23) Her lips moved desolately in prayer, imploring the gods to have mercy on her.
- 24) He sat there in mute misery, his face in his hands.
- 25) When he left, she sank into melancholy
- 26) She buried her face in her hands and sobbed quietly, unable to hold in the great tide of emotions.
- 27) Her emotions hit her like a bullet through her chest.
- 28) I was homesick and dismayed by the dismal weather in London.
- 29) Her eyes turned watery and red as the hurtful moments were brought back to mind again.
- 30) Tears streamed down her face as she walked out of the coffee club with her hand still clutching on to the pendant.
- 31) Sue broke into tears.
- 32) A dark mood came over Jane.
- 33) She was on the verge of tears.
- 34) Tears rolled down her rosy cheeks.
- 35) No words could express his agony.
- 36) Tears welled up in Nancy's eyes.
- 37) The poor child sobbed sorrowfully.
- 38) With a heavy heart, he left the hospital.
- 39) My heart sank when I heard the sad news.
- 40) Her eyes were puffy and red after all the crying.
- 41) She cried her heart out on hearing the tragic news.
- 42) The frightened child was on the brink of tears.
- 43) They were sobbing their hearts out when they heard of their father's sudden death.
- 44) Mrs Lee was so overcome with grief that she fainted a few times at her husband's funeral
- 45) My heart sank when my teacher told me that I had failed the examination.
- 46) The little girl burst into tears when she could not find her mother.
- 47) The little girl was close to tears when her mother left her in the care of the new maid.
- 48) She was so upset that she could not stop her tears from streaming down her cheeks.
- 49) A tingle of sorrow swept over me.
- 50) Her heart was shattered after hearing the devastating news.

- 51) With tears in my eyes, a quaver in my throat, tears streamed down my cheeks onto the ground.
- 52) Grief, remorse and depression covered me like a thick choking blanket.
- 53) Tears of sorrow rolled down my cheeks when I heard the heart-breaking news.
- 54) He howled dismally when his dog died
- 55) After being wrongly accused by his best friend, he felt down in the dumps.
- 56) Kevin felt utterly miserable when Julia called off the wedding.
- 57) His heart overflowed with sadness when he lost the race.
- 58) Feeling blue, he went for a holiday to forget all his sorrow.
- 59) She felt very wretched after being slapped and locked up by her husband.
- 60) He told his cousins all his woes when they visited him.
- 61) He was so sad that he tried to drown his sorrows by going out to drink.
- 62) With tears streaming uncontrollably down her cheeks, Janice knelt down in front of her parents' grave and cried out, " I've been such an unfilial daughter!"
- 63) My father felt demoralised because he failed his driving test again.
- 64) The widow laments grievously at the death of her husband.

Good expressions for describing anger

- 1) He muttered furiously under his breath.
- 2) Her eyes glared at him in ruthless impersonality.
- 3) His resentment blinded his logic.
- 4) He was outraged.
- 5) He was infuriated with his son for not telling the truth.
- 6) She blew her top when she could not get her way.
- 7) There was fury in his eyes.
- 8) The little boy put a lot of anger into the blow, knocking the bully over.
- 9) She seethed with indignation.
- 10) A wave of rage swept over him.
- 11) It caused an enormous furore.
- 12) He was livid when he realized that his car was scratched.
- 13) He did his best to mask his anger but...
- 14) She was so angry that she hurled curses at her rival.

- 15) His anger was formidable.
- 16) One could see a flicker of anger that crossed her face.
- 17) She flounced out of the room when her boss ridiculed her ideas.
- 18) She was just too upset to even bother about how others thought about her. Unanswered questions burned endlessly in her brain; her inner voice was screaming in silent anguish and betrayal as she sank into the shadowed corner of the restroom, holding her head in her hands whilst the tears kept flowing.
- 19) Tom turned red with fury.
- 20) Peter was boiling with rage
- 21) He stamped his foot in anger.
- 22) Sally gritted her teeth in anger.
- 23) They were too angry for words.
- 24) Her voice crackled with anger.
- 25) Jake stormed off towards the exit.
- 26) His anger turned into violence.
- 27) He drew in his breath with a long hiss.
- 28) He was like a bull in a china shop.
- 29) A wave of futile rage swept over him.
- 30) An angry frown creased her forehead.
- 31) I could see her eyes glowing in fury.
- 32) He was so angry that his blood boiled.
- 33) She stormed out of the room in anger.
- 34) His fist came down on the table with a loud bang.
- 35) In a fit of anger, he stabbed her to death.
- 36) His eyes flashed with anger and resentment.
- 37) His face was contorted with rage and fury.
- 38) He clenched his fist and shook with fury.
- 39) He was fuming but he contained his anger.
- 40) Seething with anger, he approached me menacingly.
- 41) In a blind fury, he smashed the chair against the television set.
- 42) With hands trembling from anger, the man slapped the boy hard.

- 43) She was hopping mad when she heard the slanderous accusations.
- 44) His hands were shaking uncontrollably and his face turned an ominous red.
- 45) His face had turned to the colour of molten lava and his eyes flashed bolts of lightning.
- 46) She stared with eyes filled with anger and hatred that were beyond description
- 47) Father flew into a rage when I told him I had lost the valuable watch he bought for me.
- 48) My sister and I had a heated argument over the new dress we were supposed to share.
- 49) I was shocked at the string of abusive words that came out from her mouth when we quarrelled.
- 50) Ahmad lost his temper and slapped his brother. In the next moment, fists were flying, as they exchanged blows.
- 51) Mary was as angry as a bull that saw red when she realised that she had been conned by the quick-witted salesman.
- 52) After hearing that John had betrayed him, Ali went for his blood.
- 53) He clenched his fists in anger.
- 54) Flying into a rage, he slapped his sister's face for ruining the things he loved most.
- 55) As Jim was naughty, Mrs Lim scolded him in a thunderous voice.

Good expressions for regret/guilt

- 1) He lived a life of self-condemnation ever since he lost his child.
- 2) He was guilt-ridden for not lending a helping hand to his friend.
- 3) He reproached himself for scolding the person he loves.
- 4) Feeling reprehensible for the tragedy, he vowed never to drive again.
- 5) He felt rather contrite for having deceived his friends.
- 6) It was an agonizing feeling of shame and guilt.
- 7) Feeling remorseful for the accident that happened, he kneeled down in front of the victim's family to beg forgiveness.
- 8) All these years, the old man had carried his guilt like a gestating foetus in his mind.
- 9) Regret rushed through her veins, for her harsh words.
- 10) An unexpected wave of guilt swept over Jessica and she quickly suppressed it as soon as it came.

Good expressions for grief

- 1) No words could express the secret agony of my soul.
- 2) On hearing the terrible news, we were too numb to even cry.

- 3) She looked up at me with an inconsolable face.
- 4) Overcome by grief, the mother fainted when she saw her son's body in the mortuary.
- 5) The wife was hysterical with grief when told of her husband's death.
- 6) He would not show his grief but only stared glumly ahead.
- 7) Tears formed in my eyes. How my heart ached. I was crushed I could hardly breathe. My lungs burned as I tried desperately to cry and breathe normally.
- 8) My heart shattered. My thoughts whirled and I cried as hard as I could but it didn't help.
- 9) I was so overcome with grief that there were times when my tears actually flowed down without my noticing it.
- 10) The nights grew lonely; darkness seemed to suck the day dry of its essence.

Good expressions for describing panic/disbelief/fear/anxious

- 1) Terror seized us all.
- 2) Panic started to engulf him.
- 3) She was at a loss for words.
- 4) He froze for a few seconds.
- 5) I rose shakily to my feet.
- 6) A rude shock awaited them.
- 7) A chill went down her spine.
- 8) The sight of the ghost sent shudders down her spine.
- 9) A loud voice boomed, sending shivers down her spine.
- 10) I was powerless and frantic with terror.
- 11) She screamed at the top of her voice.
- 12) She screamed her head off when she saw the corpse.
- 13) She jumped in fright when her mother suddenly shouted at her.
- 14) His face turned pale and his skin felt cold and clammy.
- 15) Overcome with fright, she lost her balance and fell down in a swoon.
- 16) She experienced a feeling of weakness before blacking out.
- 17) She stood rooted to the ground.
- 18) The shock robbed him of speech.
- 19) I was too afraid to utter a word.
- 20) A haze of fear surrounded him.

- 21) The timid girl shrank back in fear.
- 22) Gary stood motionless with horror.
- 23) She was panic-stricken when she realised she was trapped.
- 24) Frightened thoughts raced through his mind
- 25) They fled in panic when they saw the charging dog.
- 26) Our hair stood on end as a cry rang shrilly in the night.
- 27) Fighting back tears of fear, he stared motionless at the approaching danger.
- 28) With his sense of direction gone, he ran as fast as his legs could carry him.
- 29) Paralysed with fear, he was speechless.
- 30) The frightened child was screaming incoherently.
- 31) I woke sobbing, drenched in sweat and paralysed with fear.
- 32) I was roused by a sound which brought my heart to my mouth.
- 33) They huddled together and stared apprehensively into the darkness.
- 34) Terror gripped his whole being and perspiration started dripping from his forehead.
- 35) A chill ran swiftly up his back, causing the nape of his neck to tingle.
- 36) I was sick to my stomach at the horrendous sight.
- 37) Suddenly, he heard his children's shouts from the garden, shrill with excitement.
- 38) Back in the room, Tom was simply quivering all over with excitement.
- 39) The crowd let out a stupendous cheer as the team scored a home goal.
- 40) Their pulses raced as they neared their final goal.
- 41) Henry's skin tingled with excitement as he watched the hair-raising race.
- 42) They stared at him in blank amazement.
- 43) She rummaged frantically in her handbag for the revolver.
- 44) Ali crouched at the corner, shuddering in fear that the gangster might harm him.
- 45) Cold fear gripped me as I began to imagine all sorts of things that could happen to me in the haunted house.
- 46) I was about to turn the key when I heard something. I held my breath and put my ear against the door.
- 47) Susan returned home and told her mother in a shaky tone that she had been robbed in the lift.
- 48) Tom turned as white as a sheet when he was caught red-handed stealing Ali's wallet.

- 49) I was shocked when my brother got home with a bloodstained face, and bruises all over his arms and legs.
- 50) He was scared stiff when he saw the ghost.
- 51) Her hair stood on end when she watched the horror movie.
- 52) The screams of terror gave way to dead silence in the haunted house.
- 53) Nervously, I opened the door and slowly tiptoed towards him.
- 54) My voice quivering, I felt goose pimples all over my body.
- 55) Trembling with fear, I handed them the keys
- 56) The piece of news hit us like a bombshell.
- 57) We were too dumbfounded for words
- 58) There was a lump in my throat when I saw the shadow.
- 59) Cold sweat trickled down my forehead when I woke up from a nightmare.
- 60) I tried to walk at a faster pace but my knees turned to jelly and I felt sick.
- 61) The boy tried to stifle his scream but was unsuccessful. He was caught!
- 62) My scream echoed eerily throughout the graveyard. I was paralysed with fear.
- 63) He was speechless with fright when he saw the ghost.
- 64) His heart pounded in his chest as he walked into the old mansion
- 65) I jumped with a start when I heard the noise.
- 66) The eerie room made my blood run cold
- 67) All the windows were closed and the figure looked dark and menacing.
- 68) It missed me by a few centimetres but it scared the life out of me.
- 69) Fear gripped me and I dared not move.
- 70) All sorts of frightening things crossed my mind.
- 71) My legs were heavy and frightening thoughts flooded my mind.
- 72) My heart throbbed with fear at what I had seen.
- 73) His senses were numbed when the crooks pointed a gun at him.
- 74) My bones were jittering and my heart leapt to my throat.
- 75) The killer was very instinctive, even his footsteps echoed danger.
- 76) His unearthly and awesome appearance struck terror in all.
- 77) He gave a blood-curdling scream when a vampire appeared in his room.

78) We trembled when John did death-defying stunts on the ledge of his tenth storey apartment.

79) This place gives me the creeps

80) I felt my blood chill in my veins.

81) For the first time I felt a sense of panic. "Oh my god!" I cried in disbelief.

82) With a heart thumping fiercely against her chest, she entered the wedding scene, cringing slightly at the bright shimmering lights.

83) Instead of Tom was lost, and he could find his mummy and daddy.

84) Tom stopped suddenly, as an ominous realization hit him to the point of crying. He looked around, looking for the two familiar faces that guarded him for as long as he could remember. Tom began calling out their names: Mummy, and Daddy.

85) No response came. Fear started to burn his heart and spread throughout his body like wildfire. Tom went to the corner and slumped down, unconscious of the tears that stained his cheeks. His cries of childish terror filled the corridor. He was lost.

86) A horrific sight greeted me.

87) She blinked her long-lashed eyes disbelief and gave a small gasp.

88) Extremely puzzled and agitated by the strange happenings, Angela felt rather disturbed and upset.

Substitute words for nervous/anxious

a) Apprehensive

b) Timorous

c) Alarmed

d) Panicky

e) Panic-stricken

f) Disquieted

g) Agitated

h) Jittery

i) Jumpy

j) nervy

Substitute words for wonderment

a) Spellbound

b) Astonished

c) Astounded

- d) Amazed
- e) Awe-struck
- f) Fascinated
- g) Impressed
- h) Dumbfounded
- i) Flabbergasted
- j) Bewildered
- k) dazzled

Phrases to describe happiness

- a) Heart skipped a beat
- b) Heart was thumping wildly
- c) Heart almost burst with happiness
- d) Heart swelled with happiness
- e) Jumped for joy
- f) Shining eyes
- g) Tears of joy welled up in her eyes
- h) Her eyes lit up with joy
- i) Her eyes sparkled with happiness
- j) Shrieked with excitement
- k) Mouth curled into a pleasant smile
- l) I yelled a shout of joy as my prayers has been answered.
- m) His eyes turned red and watery as he held her by her hand. A tear of great happiness and comfort trickled down his cheeks till it was dangling on his chin.
- n) The delight on her face was mixed with surprise.
- o) The old friends kept up a flow of happy chatter over afternoon tea.
- p) They were in high spirits as they traveled, singing songs and telling jokes.

Expressions to describe weather

Good Weather

- 1) The sun shone brilliantly and the water in the pond glittered invitingly.

- 2) The sun filtered through the clouds, signalling the end of the rain.
- 3) A golden glow spread across the sky as the sun chased the dark clouds away.
- 4) The whole landscape was bathed in the warm glow of the rising sun.
- 5) Palm trees swayed gently in the breeze in the warm tropical sunshine.
- 6) Fresh air filled my lungs and I felt refreshed and exhilarated.
- 7) The breathtaking scenery captivated everyone.
- 8) The pond was bathed in a golden hue by the gentle sunlight and the water was as clear as crystal.
- 9) The sunlit clouds drifted across a clear blue sky.
- 10) The sun rose in a pool of crimson and gold, spilling light all over the land and the white clouds.
- 11) As the sun set, the few thin strips of clouds on the horizon turned shimmering gold.
- 12) It was a lovely walk, with the sun setting behind the mountain in a sea of liquid gold.
- 13) The sunset was glorious, all rosy and salmon pink.
- 14) The sky was filled with crimson and amber-tinted clouds.
- 15) It dawned bright and sunny, with a sky that was a deep blue, flecked with tiny white clouds.
- 16) The sun put its warm fingers into his tent opening and he felt the warmth on his sleeping bag.

Bad Weather

- 1) The sky above was full of tumultuous, dark and ragged clouds.
- 2) It was a cold grey afternoon with a dull sky and threatening rain.
- 3) Ominous black clouds covered the sky and released a sudden shower
- 4) Thunder rolled in from the west and rain began to fall.
- 5) The dark clouds grew ominous
- 6) Lightning and thunder raged with fury
- 7) The morning was cold and wet with a brisk wind sweeping the rain across the land.
- 8) A flash of forked lightning and a great clap of thunder came close upon each other.
- 9) Thunder roared and lightning flashed across the sky.
- 10) The howling of the wind frightened us all.
- 11) The wind was howling and soon there was a heavy downpour.
- 12) A curtain of rain beat down from the heavens.
- 13) Rain pelted down from skies.

- 14) The sky was most threatening. In no time, it was raining cats and dogs.
- 15) As I had neither a raincoat nor an umbrella, I was soon drenched to the skin.
- 16) The sky turned into a hideous grey as lightning struck and thunder rumbled.
- 17) It was raining cats and dogs.
- 18) He was soaked to the skin when he came back from the heavy downpour.

Expressions to describe Fire

- 1) The car burst into flames after colliding with a stationary lorry.
- 2) Within seconds, the room was engulfed in flames.
- 3) A minute later, a loud explosion rocked the building.
- 4) Screaming in pain, the occupants of the burning house came staggering out into the streets.
- 5) Screams and loud cries pierced the air.
- 6) Flames swept over them.
- 7) Everybody was fleeing frantically.
- 8) Panic-stricken occupants rushed out of the burning houses.
- 9) Horrible screams filled the air.
- 10) Cloaked in a wet blanket, I crouched as low as I could to avoid the toxic smoke.
- 11) The scene was chaotic.
- 12) The wail of the fire engine siren could be heard.
- 13) There was not a moment to lose. The firemen started putting out the fire as soon as they arrived.
- 14) Smoke and sparks were whirling in all directions.
- 15) Thick smoke filled the air, shrouding the surroundings in total darkness.
- 16) Columns of smoke were seen streaming out of the burning building.
- 17) Many corpses were charred beyond recognition.
- 18) I looked up and saw the whole sky blazing red because of the fire.
- 19) As the house burned, tongues of flames leapt into the dark sky.
- 20) It took the firemen two hours to put the fire completely under control.

Expressions to describe accidents

- 1) Puddles of water were everywhere, making the road slippery and dangerous.
- 2) The car was going at full speed.

- 3) The short-lived laughter turned into screams of horror when they saw a car coming straight at them.
- 4) The car was speeding down the road.
- 5) The reckless driver swerved from left to right, overtaking many vehicles.
- 6) He did not abide by the traffic rules.
- 7) The boy dashed across the road.
- 8) The driver tried to swerve to the right but he was too late.
- 9) I heard the screeching of the brakes.
- 10) The two cars collided with a deafening crash
- 11) With a deafening crash, the car slammed into a tree.
- 12) The car skidded and crashed through the railings.
- 13) The car was a total wreck.
- 14) The pedestrian was knocked down and became unconscious.
- 15) The victim lay in a pool of blood, groaning in pain.
- 16) The driver was bleeding profusely.
- 17) Patches of blood were splattered on the ground.
- 18) The front seat was splattered with blood.
- 19) The passengers were severely injured.
- 20) The victim was mutilated beyond recognition.
- 21) The wreckage burst into flames.
- 22) The traffic slowed down and motorists craned their necks to catch a glimpse of the accident.
- 23) There was a traffic jam. The vehicles were moving along bumper to bumper.
- 24) Some people simply stood there and shook their heads in disbelief.
- 25) An ambulance was summoned.
- 26) The accident victim was bleeding profusely.
- 27) In order to avoid a collision with an oncoming lorry, Father quickly swerved his car to the right. The old wagon ran a little way and crashed into the buffers of another.

Expressions to describe setting

- a) The afternoon sun was glaring. The sky was clear, revealing a wide vast of pale blue.
- b) She strolled to the back of the house by herself, and she saw the most beautiful backdrop. Trees were everywhere and sunlight was trying its best to penetrate the thick lush greenery. Right at the

very middle of the trees was a small lake. Danielle leaned against the fence and admired the scene before her with awe.

c) It was a chilly night. The moon had appeared out of the horizon and the skies were filled with stars.

e) Lightning streaked across the sky, sending umbrella-toting people scampering to their homes.

d) My feet sunk into the sand as I walked along the shore. The familiar smell of salt water filled my nostrils. The weather was fine, and there were a couple of people around. I staggered to one of the remote corners of the beach. The seagulls screamed past me as I walked towards them. I picked a button-shaped pebble and tossed it into the water, creating a disturbance in the calm water. I looked up in the sky and then back down onto the sand. I shut my eyes tightly, but could not control my tears. They trickled down my cheeks. I felt that my life was meaningless.

e) The wonderful sunset at the horizon, the chilling sea breeze and the wonderful melodic sounds of the splashing waves as the tide started to climb in.

Words to replace "Said"

Anger	Fear	Sad	Excited
Roared Fumed Snarled Snapped Chided Exploded Growled Retorted Bellowed Barked Yelled Snorted Shouted	Stuttered Gasped Implored Pleaded Whimpered Stammered Whispered	Sobbed Moaned Cried Lamented Wailed Whined	Exclaimed Raved Ranted Screeched Shouted Shrieked Screamed Squealed

Describing People

Face and Head	Nose	Hair
Pale-looking	Long sharp nose	With lovely curls
Freckled cheeks	Hooked nose	Wavy hair
Square jaws	snub nose	Neatly combed
Pimply face	enormous nose	Plaited
Sun-tanned skin	Eyes / Eyebrows	Unkempt hair

Sunken cheeks	Bright sparkling eyes	Hair in a tangled mess
Wizened (old, shrunken and wrinkled with age)	Eyes twinkling with mischief	Long, soft and silky hair
Full of pockmarks	Bloodshot eyes	Hair sticking out
A fair complexion, A dark complexion , A swallow complexion	Small, beady eyes looking sly	Shoulders
Voice	Dull, expressionless eyes	Broad muscular shoulders
A screeching voice	Eyes as red as burning coals	Narrow and sloping shoulders
Loud and dictatorial	Squinty eyes	
Deep, authoritative voice	Almond- shaped eyes	
Dry and caustic	Eyes that slant upwards	
Tremulous	Puffy eyes, Bulging eyes, small piggy eyes	

Vocabulary to describe people

<u>thrifty</u>	<u>conscientious</u>	Perceptive	<u>resourceful</u>	Reliable
Egoistic	Fickle	Dependable	Flamboyant	Snobbish
Unscrupulous	Witty	Diligent	Fastidious	Prudish
Self-absorbed	Courteous	Sincere	Thoughtless	Intolerant
Surly	Hospitable	Frank	Peevish	Impertinent
Belligerent	Amiable	Discreet	Untrustworthy	Brazen
Incorrigible	Generous	Persevering	Sullen	Miserly
Spineless	Meticulous	Resilient	Malicious	Hypocritical
Impetuous	Prudent	Stoical	Vindictive	Tactless
Eccentric	Modest	Mature	Superficial	<u>insensitive</u>
Obstinate	Self-effacing	Sensible	Exploitative	<u>pompous</u>
Sadistic	Precocious	Tactful	Sycophantic	Crude
<u>calculating</u>	Smug	Confident	<u>pretentious</u>	Uncouth
Frivolous	Naïve	Sociable	<u>magnanimous</u>	<u>mercenary</u>
Callous	Crafty	Vivacious	Genteel	Materialistic
Ruthless	<u>altruistic</u>	Charismatic	Optimistic	Jovial
<u>exuberant</u>	<u>humorous</u>	<u>earnest</u>	Studious	Large-hearted

Words to describe certain types of people

<u>bookworm</u>	<u>buffoon</u>	<u>chatterbox</u>	<u>chauvinist</u>	<u>cheapskate</u>	Braggart
Cut-throat	<u>dandy</u>	<u>daredevil</u>	<u>dimwit</u>	Disciplinarian	<u>butterfingers</u>
Do-gooder	Don Juan	Double-crosser	Duffer	Dodger	Cynic
<u>dunce</u>	<u>egoist</u>	<u>escapist</u>	<u>extrovert</u>	<u>fanatic</u>	Featherbrain
<u>fugitive</u>	<u>flirt</u>	<u>gadabout</u>	<u>gadfly</u>	Galahad	Go-getter
<u>glutton</u>	Goody <u>goody</u>	<u>grouch</u>	Heart-throb	<u>hillbilly</u>	High-flier
<u>homebody</u>	<u>hoodlum</u>	<u>hooligan</u>	<u>hothead</u>	<u>humanitarian</u>	Hypochondriac
<u>hypocrite</u>	Hercules	<u>imposter</u>	<u>introvert</u>	Jack-of-all trades	Killjoy
<u>kleptomaniac</u>	<u>litterbug</u>	<u>livewire</u>	<u>loner</u>	<u>lunatic</u>	Madcap
<u>misfit</u>	<u>moneybags</u>	<u>materialist</u>	<u>miser</u>	Ne'er-do-well	Neurotic
<u>opportunist</u>	<u>outcast</u>	<u>optimist</u>	Pace-setter	<u>paragon</u>	Patriot
Penny-pincher	<u>perfectionist</u>	<u>pessimist</u>	<u>plodder</u>	<u>prankster</u>	Prude
<u>prodigy</u>	<u>quack</u>	<u>rascal</u>	<u>ragamuffin</u>	Realist	Rebel
<u>recluse</u>	<u>rogue</u>	<u>hermit</u>	<u>ruffian</u>	<u>Rumour-monger</u>	Sadist
<u>sage</u>	<u>scapegoat</u>	<u>scatterbrain</u>	<u>scrooge</u>	<u>snob</u>	Spendthrift
<u>slob</u>	Scandal monger	<u>waif</u>	<u>scrounger</u>	Tittle-tattle	<u>tyrant</u>

Alternative words

Say	Break	Fall	Throw	Move
Allege	Burst	Cascade	Bowl	Barge
Assert	Crumble	Drop	Cast	Caper
Bellow	Demolish	Dip	Catapult	Dart
Bawl	Disintegrate	Dive	Chuck	Flit
Complain	Explode	Duck	Fling	Hobble
Chant	Fracture	Nose-dive	Heave	Lumber
Declare	Pulverize	Plunge	Hurl	Plod
Demand	Rupture	Plummet	Launch	Prance
Groan	Shatter	Slide	Lob	Sashay
Harangue	Shear	Slither	Pelt	Shamble
Jeer	Snap	Slip	Pitch	Slink
Mutter	Split	Swoop	Stone	Sneak
Plead	Splinter	Tumble	Shower	Stagger
Sigh	Smash		Toss	Stalk
Stammer				Stride
Stutter				Strut
Snap				Swagger
Taunt				Toddle
Whisper				Totter
				Mince

Hyphenated adjectives

Back-breaking	Bone-breaking	Mouth-watering	Heart-lifting
Blood-curdling	Mind-numbing	Mind-boggling	Head-turning
Eye-catching	Soul-searing	Mind-shattering	Stomach-turning
Ear-shattering	Soul-destroying	Heart-stopping	Heart-breaking
Hip-hugging	Hair-raising	Head-turning	Heart-wrenching
Nerve-wracking	Face-saving	Ear-splitting	Tongue-twisting
Eye-opening	Fun-loving	Earth-shattering	Spine-chilling

Other Phrases

1. I had to see a doctor as I was running a high temperature and had a runny nose too.
2. The labourers working in the hot sun were perspiring profusely.
3. The whole room was splattered with blood. It was indeed a gruesome murder.
4. We were relieved when Mother regained consciousness shortly after she had collapsed in the kitchen.
5. The jug was already filled to the brim with water.
6. Last evening, we had a sumptuous meal at the popular restaurant.
7. After a long and tiring bus ride, we finally arrived at our destination.
8. The wailing sirens could be heard in the distance and soon, the fire engines and ambulances were in sight.
9. In the dark of the night, I could hear the howling of the wind and the strange noises made by different animals.
10. The newly opened department store was packed with people yesterday.

11. From the top of Mount Faber, we can have a clear view of the harbour.
12. When I found no one at home and discovered that the whole place was in a mess, my imagination began to run wild.
13. Immediately I ran for my life, but the killer was hot on my heels.
14. When I was called up by the principal, I entered his office with mixed feelings.
15. I still treasure fond memories of my happy childhood days.
16. When all the excitement had died down, everyone returned to his seat and resumed work.
17. I caught sight of Bob running at top speed to the tuckshop once the bell had gone.
18. I don't think you should keep the wallet. It should be returned to the rightful owner.
19. Although it was not a big house, it was very well-furnished.
20. It was only after much persuasion that Alice finally agreed to attend the party.
21. After spending an enjoyable day at my friend's house, I thanked her family for their hospitality and bade them farewell.
22. I immediately gave him medical aid and tried to relieve him of his pain.
23. Please consider the matter carefully before coming to a decision.
24. Mother kept telling lazy Jack to study hard for the examination, but her advice fell on deaf ears.
25. I had forgotten to study for the test, but by the stroke of luck, I managed to pass it.
26. Hawkers selling the New Year delicacies had a roaring business before the festival.
27. With extremely good results scored by the pupils, 'Prize-giving Day' was indeed a red-letter day for the entire school.
28. He feasted his eyes on all the delicious food laid on the table.
29. The children had a whale of a time at the tea party.
30. The school is just a stone's throw away from his house.
31. I couldn't understand how my pen could disappear into thin air.
32. The poor beggar was so hungry that he simply gobbled up the food.
33. Mother nodded in approval of my suggestion.
34. Betty eyed the stranger with suspicion because he had been standing at the gate for more than an hour.
35. The girl with long silky hair and smooth complexion is my sister.
36. The little boy was numbed with cold as he begged in the streets on a winter night.
37. That old man with the wrinkled face and toothless grin is my grandfather.
38. I knew I was wrong, but my foolish pride held me back from apologizing to him.
39. I always like to hear the waves splashing because they soothe and calm my nerves.
40. From this window, I could have a picturesque view of the sea and the mountain.
41. I lost my balance, slipped and fell with a loud crash and a heavy thud.
42. Orville Wright climbed into the glider. The engine burst into life and the machine was soon in flight.
43. Mary had to tell a white lie to save her friend from further embarrassment.
44. The top pupil had all her answers at her fingertips.
45. The boy told a cock and bull story to explain his naughty act, hoping to escape punishment.
46. The throbbing headache that I have makes it difficult for me to concentrate on my work.
47. To participate in the competition or not is a nagging problem for most of our Primary Six pupils.
48. The disobedient son is a thorn in Mrs Li's flesh.
49. Mrs Poh could not afford to buy a radio for she had been living from hand to mouth.
50. Wanli is a bull in a china shop. When he walks, he either knocks down something or brushes against somebody.
51. Is a pencil missing from your pencil-box? Why raise a storm in a tea cup?
52. That fat middle-aged lady waddled like a duck down the corridor.
53. They felt a surge of embarrassment going through their bodies.
54. Ali gave Ahmad a cold shoulder when he discovered that he had made an unfair remark about him.
55. His hatred for his rival grew deeper.

56. Like they say, every dog has its day.
57. She was a very poor old woman, but she managed to keep her cottage spick and span and she always had a vase of flowers on her table.
58. There was an old red cushion there, very worn and shabby.
59. It was a cold and frosty night.
60. His face turned red with embarrassment when everyone started teasing him.
61. His face turned as red as an apple when he realised that his zip was open.
62. There was a hive of activity during that day.
63. The minutes ticked by as I waited for my friend.
64. The peace and tranquillity of the park attracted many tourists.
65. He was green with jealousy when he saw his girlfriend talking to another man.
66. Then one day, tragedy struck. The volcano erupted and claimed thousands of lives.
67. They listened to him with utmost interest.
68. Then, before I could even flick an eyelash, they ran past me.
69. As he put the flute to his lips, the music was like the clear call of summer birds in the evening.
70. Soon, I realised that I had been walking in circles.
71. Without uttering a word, he stalked off.
72. I hit upon a bright idea on how to solve the difficult puzzle.
73. We craned our necks to catch a glimpse of the superstar.
74. People were bargaining at the top of their voices, in different languages, over the food price.
75. When she peered over the wall, she saw a snake.