

Units 3 & 4 Writing worksheet

Writing an article

GOAL: write an interesting article for a website for young people.

Include: details; pronouns; numbers; expressions for adding interest.

1 Discuss the questions.

- 1 What kind of things do you read?
- 2 Which three topics interest you the most?
- 3 Do you ever share things you read online? What? Who with? Why?

Writing skill including details

Articles usually include interesting details for the reader to 'take away'. These details can be names, numbers, places, facts and reasons.

When planning an article, writers often use the questions *Who?*, *What?*, *Where?*, *When?*, *How?* and *Why?* to guide their writing. This helps them to include interesting details.

2 Read the article from an adventure website for young people. Answer the questions.

- 1 Who loves diving in Cyprus?
- 2 How many people come to Cyprus to dive each year?
- 3 Why is the sea good in June?
- 4 When did the MS Zenobia sink?
- 5 What lives in and around the boat?
- 6 Where does the writer feel happiest?

A perfect world

I dive into the secret silent world of the sea. This is my happiest place.

I'm a school student, a daughter and a friend. But the first thing I say to people is 'I'm a diver'. I'm not the only one. Many young people love diving in Cyprus – Cypriots and visitors from abroad. Reports suggest that approximately 50,000 people visit Cyprus each year to dive, and I can see why. The temperature for perfect – about 29°C in June and just under 23°C in November.

My favourite place to dive is near Lanarka harbour. In 1980, the ferry MS Zenobia sank there, and there it remains. It's over 170 metres long, and many fish and other sea creatures now live around it. People go there to dive and see the beautiful marine life just over 40 metres below the surface.

Today, though, I'm not going to see MS Zenobia. Instead, I am at Protaras with my diving instructor and a small group of divers. The sun is hot as we arrive, the temperature's 30°C exactly, but I don't care. As I said, I am going to my happiest place. You should join me some time – you'll love it.

3 Read the pieces of information from the text in Exercise 2. Decide which questions they answer.

- 1 over 170 metres
- 2 near Lanarka harbour
- 3 beautiful marine life
- 4 November
- 5 the diving instructor and a small group of divers
- 6 you'll love it

Writing mechanics using pronouns

We use pronouns to refer to something or someone mentioned earlier in the text. When we use pronouns, we do not need to repeat the main noun. This helps to make our writing less repetitive and easier to read.

In 1980, the ferry MS Zenobia sank there, and there it remains.

Today, I'm at Protaras with my driving instructor and a small group of divers. The sun is hot as we arrive.

4 What do the underlined words refer to below?

I learned to dive with my brothers. ¹ We went to lessons every Saturday. First, ² they were in the swimming pool. Then, as everyone in the class got better, ³ we started diving in the sea. I was afraid when I first went diving in ⁴ it; the swimming pool has walls, but the sea doesn't. The diving instructor was great, though, and ⁵ he stayed with me the whole time. Now when I dive, I don't feel scared, I feel happy and free.

5 Add the correct reference words to the text below.

The diving instructors arrived by boat in the afternoon. ¹ _____ prepared the equipment and my friends and I got ready for the dive. The sun started to get lower in the sky, but ² _____ was still hot and bright. The boat moved gently in the water. ³ _____ was full, but one by one ⁴ _____ disappeared into the water. The sea was warm, clear and full of brightly coloured fish. ⁵ _____ were very beautiful.

Writing mechanics including numbers

Numbers in articles can be powerful. Writers use them to help the reader remember important facts. In general articles, write numbers so they are easy to read.

89	→	nearly 90
4,100,035	→	over 4 million
190,867	→	around / about 200,000
61.4%	→	approximately 60%
19.9°C	→	just under 20°C
23.00	→	23.00 exactly

6 Circle examples of numbers and percentages from the text in Exercise 2 and write them below. Then add a different way of writing them.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7 Correct the mistakes in column B. You do not need to change the numbers.

A	B	
79.6%	just over 80%	_____
6,000,010	around 600,000	_____
359	nearly 359	_____
37.3°C	just under 37°C	_____
700,325	700,000 exactly	_____

WRITE

8 Choose a title for a website article and make notes below. You can use your own knowledge, talk to friends and family, and / or do research online.

- An exciting sport
- A day in the life of ...
- The best place in Cyprus
- Why young people are lucky
- An unusual journey
- Never do this!

Article title and topic	
Article audience	

Main ideas	
Key facts	
Key numbers	

9 Review your notes and choose what to include in your article.

10 Look at the *Key language* box. Find the expressions in the article.

Key language expressions for adding interest

Open with interesting statements

This is my happiest place.

The first thing I say to people is ...

And I can see why.

Give a different idea

Today, though, I'm not going to ...

But I don't care

Refer back and refer to the reader

As I said, ...

You should ...

11 Write your article for a website for young people. Use your plan, reference words, numbers and percentages, and expressions from the *Key language* box. Write 80–100 words.

12 Read your partner's work and tick (✓) the checklist.

Has your partner ...

- ☐ ... included interesting 'take away' details?
- ☐ ... used pronouns to avoid repetition?
- ☐ ... added numbers and percentages?
- ☐ ... used expressions for adding interest?