



## 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.

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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.



## Imaginative recount

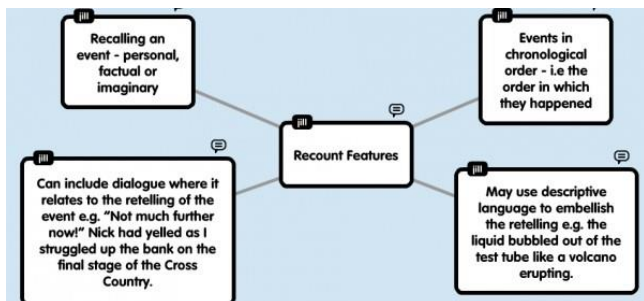
Applies factual knowledge to an imaginary role in order to interpret and recount events e.g. A Day in the Life of a German soldier, How I manned the first mission to the moon. An imaginative recount is the re-telling of events, usually in the first person. This style of recount allows for embellishment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

## Procedural recount

Records the steps in an investigation or experiment and thereby providing the basis for reported results or findings. A procedural recount records events such as a science experiment or cooking. Procedural recounts present the events chronologically (in the order in which happened). The purpose of procedural recounts is to inform the audience. [www.yahyasoliman.com](http://www.yahyasoliman.com)

## 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.



## ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE RECOUNT

### STRUCTURE FEATURES

#### STRUCTURE

##### ORIENTATION

Explain the who, what, when, where of the experience in your introduction.

##### FOCUS

Only significant events are included

##### CHRONOLOGY

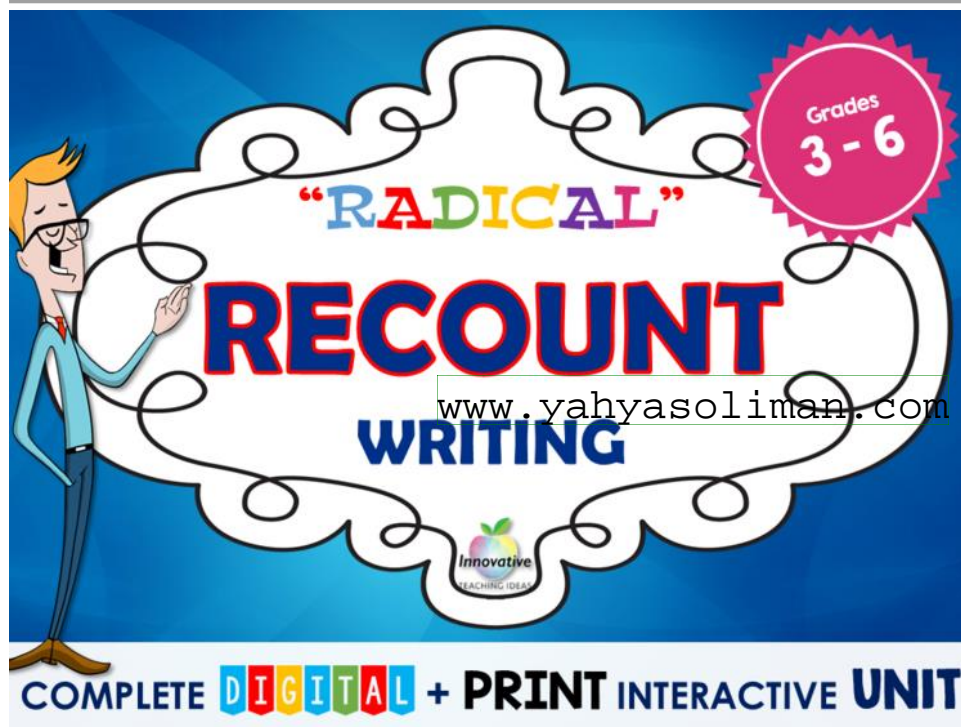
Events are described in the sequence in which they occurred.

##### ORGANIZATION

Relevant information is grouped in paragraphs

##### INSIGHT

Include personal comments, opinions or interpretations of the recounted experience or event.



Writing a recount is a deeply reflective process. As such you will want to spend the largest part of recount writing time refining the details, language and narration of the event you are recounting.

## POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE WRITING

- What are you going to tell your audience? What are you recounting?
- What information will the audience need early in the text?
- What are the important events or parts of the recount you want to describe? And what order will they occur in?
- How will you let your readers know the order of events? And what language will we use to link them?
- What other information may be useful to include?
- How will you conclude your recount?

## Recount Writing Prompts

My most  
embarrassing  
moment...

THE FIRST TIME I...

My greatest  
vacation...

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A TIME I WAS  
HAPPILY LOST...

WHEN I FOUND  
SOMETHING I KNEW  
I SHOULDN'T KEEP  
BUT...

**MY MOST  
FRIGHTENING  
MOMENT**

**THE WORST  
INJURY I EVER  
HAD...**

**THE GREATEST  
THING I'VE DONE  
IS...**

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**to make  
choice I had  
difficult  
the most**

**THE STRANGEST  
THING I EVER SAW...**



A BRUSH WITH FAME...

A near death experience...

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### Tips for writing a great recount

- Keep everything in chronological order.
- Set the scene for the audience in terms of characters, setting and context.
- Each new section will require a new paragraph. Be sure to check out our own complete guide to [writing perfect paragraphs here](#).
- Use the correct language and terms.
- If you are writing from a specific point of view use the relevant language.
- Use a range of adjectives, try and avoid "And then, and then , and then."
- Recounts are always written in past tense. They can be written from both first and third person perspective.

The challenge in writing a good recount is to provide the audience with the story as it happened but to leave out incidental and boring information.

Ensure you also clearly understand your audience, as this will have a big impact upon the language you use.

## WRITING ORGANIZER - Recount

**Orientation:** - *Introduction – Setting the scene.*

**Gives details of:**

- Who
- What
- When
- Where
- Why

**Events:** - *What happened – in chronological order.*

**What happened?**

- First...
- Next...
- Soon...
- During...
- After...
- Later...
- Eventually...
- Finally...

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**Conclusion:** - *Personal Comment (Optional)*

**What did you think, feel or decide about the events that happened.**

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Set the scene  
Who? What? When? Where?  
Why?

Write about the events in the order they happened.

End with a comment.

New paragraph for each part.

Word Focus

- Time connectives
- Adjectives

Tense  
Past

Style

- Personal
- First Person

[Download these graphic organizers free here](#)

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**Conclusion:** - Personal Comment (Optional)

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