

How to write a **SHORT ONLINE POSTING** – KEY



Check your answers. If you are not sure about an answer, ask your teacher.



1 Think about short online postings you see on social media.

a. Read these statements about them. Cross out the words and phrases that do NOT fit.

- In a short online posting I should **say hello to my readers**/~~not talk directly to my readers~~.
- In a short posting I should write ~~one paragraph~~/**one or two sentences** for each bullet point.
- In a short online posting it's **OK**/~~not OK~~ to use short forms (*I'm, don't ...*).
- My online posting should give **specific information**/~~a lot of details~~.
- I **should**/~~should not~~ write a closing to end a short online posting.

b. What else do you do when you post something online? Write your ideas in the thought bubbles.

These are some ideas:



2

Read this writing task carefully. Think about the following questions and write short answers.

Why are you writing this posting?	My cat Scratchy is missing/disappeared.
Who are the readers of your posting?	English-speaking people in my area
Which information is important in your posting?	e.g. when we last saw Scratchy, what he looks like and what to do when someone sees him ...
How long should your posting be?	about 40–60 words

Your cat Scratchy is missing. You want to ask people for help and there are a few English-speaking families in your area. Write an **online posting** for social media.



In your **online posting**, you should:

- explain why you are writing
- describe what Scratchy looks like
- say what people should do when they find Scratchy

Write around **40–60** words.



3 Read these postings.

a. Decide which posting is the most useful to find Scratchy.

For me posting 2 is the most useful because it includes all the important information (it says when Scratchy went missing, what he looks like and what to do when people see him).

1	 poster_1: Hi! My cat's gone. He's very shy and doesn't like strangers. Please call me or send a message. (18 words)
2	 poster_2: Help! My cat Scratchy is lost. We last saw him yesterday morning. Scratchy is <u>grey with black stripes and yellow eyes</u> . He <u>has a long tail and white paws</u> . Scratchy is very friendly. If you see him, please call Anna at 555-234-789 or send me a message. Thank you so much! (51 words)
3	 poster_3: Hello everyone, I'm posting here because I need some help from people living in my area. I'm writing this online posting because my cat Scratchy has gone missing. I'm worried about him because he has never been away from home for such a long time. I really need your help to find him. Here's a short description of what Scratchy looks like so that people can recognise him. He's a <u>medium-sized grey and white</u> cat with <u>bright yellow eyes and a small collar with a bell</u> . If you find Scratchy, this is what you should do: Please try to help and contact me as soon as possible by sending me a message or calling my phone number. My phone number is 1234-5678. Thank you very much for reading this posting. (129 words)

b. Add the posting numbers 1–3 to these statements about the postings.

- Posting 1 is too short.
- In posting 3 there's a lot of information that is not important.
- Posting 2 tells the reader since when Scratchy is missing.
- Posting 1 doesn't include a phone number.
- Posting 2 gives the cat owner's name.
- Posting 2 and 3 describe what Scratchy looks like.
- Posting 3 says why the owner is worried.
- In posting 1 the reader doesn't know which cat to look for.
- Posting 2 and 3 thank the readers.

c. Highlight all the words in the postings that are used to describe Scratchy. Then write them in the box below.

grey with black stripes, yellow eyes, long tail, white paws

medium-sized, grey and white, bright yellow eyes, a small collar with a bell



4 Riley's posting is all mixed up.



- a. Match each label (1–5) with the correct part of Riley's posting. Fill in the numbers 1–5.

	Labels
1	Greeting and opening
2	About bullet point 1: explain why you are writing
3	About bullet point 2: describe what Scratchy looks like
4	About bullet point 3: say what people should do when they find Scratchy
5	Closing

	Parts of Riley's posting
5	<u>Thank you very much!</u> Riley
4	<u>If you find Scratchy, please</u> contact me as soon as possible by phone or message (7890-2315).
3	He's a large grey and white cat with black stripes and light-brown eyes. He has a long tail and a collar with a bell.
1	Hello, I need <u>your help</u> .
2	My cat Scratchy has gone missing from my home.

- b. Underline all the phrases or sentences in Riley's posting where he talks directly to YOU and other readers.

5 Read this posting and think about what's wrong.

Make the posting better and write a new version of each sentence.



A cat named Scratchy has not come home since yesterday.	Hello! We need your help. Our cat Scratchy is missing. (He hasn't come home since yesterday.)
It's grey and white and usually stays near the house.	He's grey and has white paws. He's rather small.
The family feels worried because the cat has never been away for so long.	We are very worried.
Anyone who sees the cat should call this number 123456.	Please call this number if you see him: 123456. Thanks for your help.

→ If you are not sure your new sentences are correct, ask your teacher.

6 Useful phrases to start and end a short posting.

- a. Read the sentences to start a short posting. There's one word missing in each sentence. Fill in the gaps with the words below. There are two extra words.

love – something – anyone – tips – ask – everyone – problem

- Hi everyone, I need some help.
- Hello! I have a question and hope you can give me some tips.
- Hi, I'm writing because I have a problem.
- Hello there, can you help me with something?
- Hi, I'm not sure what to do and would love to get some ideas.

- b. Read the sentences to end your online posting. Circle the correct option.

- Looking for/forward to/after your tips!
- Thanks a lot/much/many.
- Please share/give/say your ideas.
- Please ask/say/tell me if you know what to do.
- I really wish/appreciate/like your help.

7 Think back to what you've learned about writing informal emails. What are the three most important things you want to do when you write your own informal emails?

These are just some ideas:

My top three:

- 1 I'll use a good opening sentence.
- 2 I'll give very specific information.
- 3 I'll write a useful ending.



WRITE YOUR OWN SHORT ONLINE POSTING

