

How to write a LONG ONLINE POSTING



You share an online posting – a short one or a longer one – on the internet (for example, on a blog or social media).

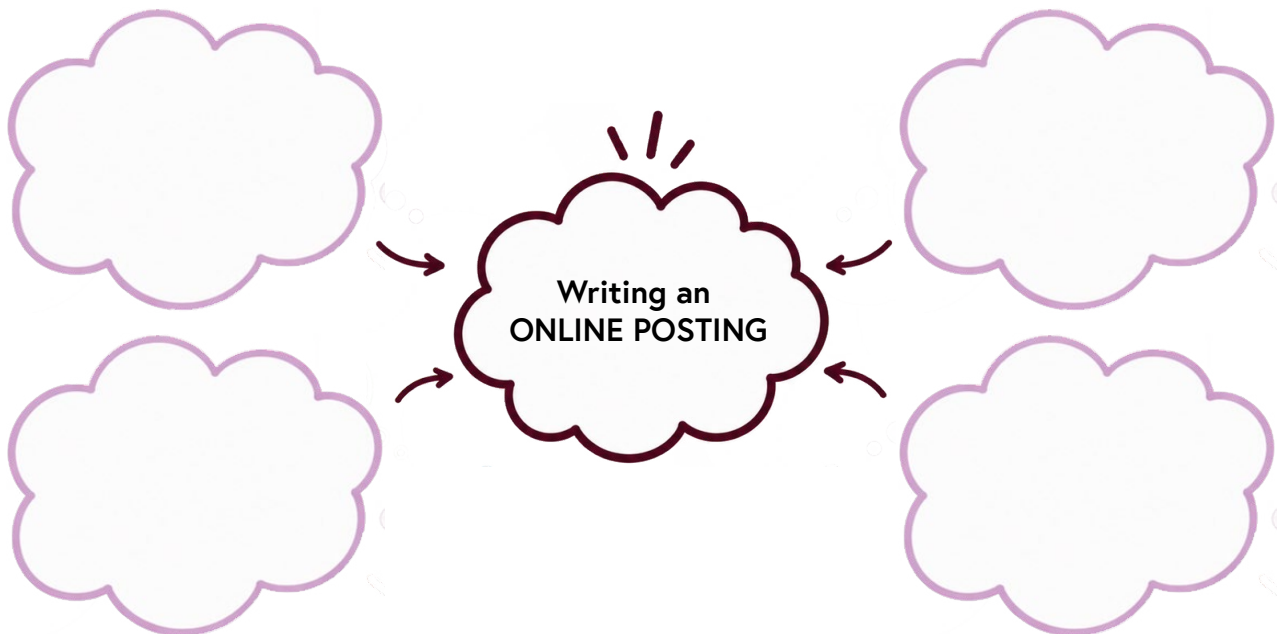
1 Think about online postings you see on social media, apps or websites.



a. Tick (✓) the statements that are TRUE for most online postings.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | People often write about personal experiences or give opinions in their postings. |
| ☐ | Most postings use very formal language (e.g., "Dear Sir/Madam"). |
| ☐ | Postings usually have a clear topic, for example, sharing tips or recommending something. |
| ☐ | Writers of postings sometimes use emojis to show feelings. |
| ☐ | Postings normally include very detailed background information. |

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



2

Read this writing task carefully. What should you write about in your online posting? Tick (✓) the correct answer.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | Talk about what makes a good friend, give advice on friendship, and explain how to be a better friend at school. |
| ☐ | Share a personal story about your best friend, how you met, what your friend is like, and why friendship matters to you. |
| ☐ | Describe your best friend's personality, write about fun things you have done, and say why you spend time together. |

You see this message on *(School) Life Happens*, a website by and for teenagers. You decide to share your ideas.

EVENTS	FUN	GAMES CORNER	ADVICE	STARS	TV & SERIES
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"School without my best friend? – Impossible!"
 That's what many teenagers say. What about friendship in your life?
 Share your story with us here!



In your **posting** on *(School) Life Happens*, you should:

- tell the story of how you met your best friend
- describe what you like/don't like about him/her
- explain why a friend is important for you

Write around **120–140** words.

3 Read Noa's posting.



- a. Write the numbers from the posting (1–6) into the boxes before each idea.

EVENTS	FUN	GAMES CORNER	ADVICE	STARS	TV & SERIES
 Noa_56					
1	Hello everyone!				
2	Do you also have this friend who just makes your life better? For me, this is Mia.				
3	I'll always remember the moment we met. It was our first day of school and we were both lost. We then asked each other for directions and we've been best friends ever since .				
4	There are so many things I like about her . For example, she always offers to help. We often do our math homework together because that's easier. She sometimes talks a bit too much, but nobody's perfect, right?				
5	Best friends are so important! Everyone needs someone they can tell everything and know that all secrets are safe. Also, it's great to have someone you can have fun with, even if it's just to laugh about silly jokes.				
6	I think everyone needs a bestie at school. Don't you agree?				
2h 10 likes 3 replies					

	Noa gives a personal comment and asks the readers if they share his opinion.
	Noa says hello to all the readers.
	Noa tells readers what friends are for.
	Noa gives examples of what he likes and doesn't like so much about Mia.
	Noa starts by asking readers about a friend that is special to them.
	Noa tells readers about being lost at school and asking Mia.

- b. Look at the **highlighted** expressions in Noa's posting. Match each one to the idea (a–g) it connects to. Write the letter in the empty box in the table. One idea doesn't fit.

a	the moment we met
b	our first day of school
c	do our math homework together
d	silly jokes
e	Mia
f	Mia's and my
g	this friend who just makes your life better

	this
	It
	our
	since then
	her
	that





Read the parts below from Noa's posting.
These parts are about the three bullet points.



The first sentence about a new bullet point is called "topic sentence". It tells the reader about the new "topic" for the next part in the text.

a. Underline the first sentence in each part.

About bullet point 1	I'll always remember the moment we met. It was our first day of school and we were both lost. We then asked each other for directions and we've been best friends ever since.
About bullet point 2	There are so many things I like about her. For example, she always offers to help. We sometimes do our math homework together because that's easier. She sometimes talks a bit too much, but nobody's perfect, right?
About bullet point 3	Best friends are so important! Everyone needs someone they can tell everything and know that all secrets are safe. Also it's great to have someone you can have fun with, even if it's just to laugh about silly jokes.

b. Write what these topic sentences are about.

The topic sentence for bullet point 1 is about _____

The topic sentence for bullet point 2 is about _____

The topic sentence for bullet point 3 is about _____



After the "topic sentence" the writer gives some details and some extra information.

c. Noa gives some details for each bullet point. Each detail already has one extra sentence that fits (✓). Look at the other sentences. Write ✓ if the sentence fits the detail. Write x if it doesn't.

Detail for bullet point 1:
It was our first day of school and we were both lost.

☒ We then asked each other for directions and we've been best friends ever since.

☐ The school building was very old and had a long history.

☐ We didn't know where our classroom was and felt a bit nervous.



Detail for bullet point 2:
She always offers to help.

- ☒ We sometimes do our math homework together because that's easier.
- ☐ She lives near the school and takes the bus every morning.
- ☐ That makes school less stressful for me.

Detail for bullet point 2:
She sometimes talks a bit too much.

- ☒ ... but nobody's perfect, right?
- ☐ This can be annoying when I want to listen in class.
- ☐ She has two sisters and a dog at home.

Detail for bullet point 3:
Everyone needs someone they can tell everything...

- ☒ ... and know that all secrets are safe.
- ☐ ... because friends should never laugh at you.
- ☐ ... and they often meet after school.

Detail for bullet point 3:
Also it's great to have someone you can have fun with...

- ☒ ... even if it's just to laugh about silly jokes.
- ☐ ... when you feel bored or sad.
- ☐ ... like playing games or watching funny videos together.

5 Tim's posting is all mixed up.

- Put the parts of his posting in the correct order. Fill in the numbers 1–5.
- Write the correct label for each part. Use these labels:

About bullet
point 3

Greeting &
opening

About bullet
point 1

About bullet
point 2

Closing

Number	Label	Tim's posting
		There are many things I really like about Leo. He's very honest and always tells me the truth. We also like the same things, like playing football and listening to music. Sometimes he can be a bit lazy, for example when we have homework, but that's not a big problem.
		I think everyone should have a best friend at school. It makes life easier and a lot more fun. What about you? Who is your best friend?
		Friends are really important to me, especially at school. When I have a bad day, I know I can talk to someone who understands me. It's also much more fun to share good moments with a friend than to be alone. For me, school would be much harder without my best friend.
		Hi everyone! Have you ever met someone and you just knew you would be good friends? That's how it was for me and my best friend Leo.
		We met two years ago in a sports club after school. I was new there and didn't know anyone. Leo started talking to me, and we trained together that day. After that, we met more often and soon became best friends.

6 Talking to the reader.

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



In an online posting it is important that your readers feel like you are talking to them.



b. Here are some more phrases you can use to talk to your readers. Add your own ideas.

Can you imagine that?

What do you think?

(as) you know ...

I'd love to hear your ideas.

We all have this problem sometimes.

Have you ever ...?

You know what?

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?

My top three:

1

2

3



KEY Use the **KEY** to check your answers.



WRITE YOUR OWN LONG ONLINE POSTING

