

Writing a diary entry

– Feedback –

Dear students,

in the following, please find Pia's commented diary entry. All in all, it is a work that presents convincing aspects of a diary entry but also shows room for improvement. I hope it serves well to illustrate some general aspects.

The very few language mistakes (well done!) are indicated in red. Sometimes I gave the correction, sometimes only showed the type of mistake and, when very easy, only marked the mistake itself. Further comments on mainly content but also format etc. you find in the commentary section.

Please all read the feedback carefully, compare it to your own result and consider for yourself:

- Did I include all the parts and typical elements of a diary entry in my piece of work?
- Did I maybe make the same typical language mistakes?
- Are some of the comments in this example true for my diary entry as well?

Dear Diary,

What a day! I finally spoke to Rowdy again after so long time.

But first: I survived my first year at Reardan. And my marks are pretty good. I'm really proud of myself that I pulled it through to the end. Although I sometimes thought about giving up. But I had a really good time, made new friends and got accepted at this school.

Now to the exciting thing I need to tell you. My friendship with Rowdy. It has been bothering me ____ (for) so long that we didn't talk and never did something together anymore. Today I thought about our time when we were young. We really did everything together, although most of the time I didn't want to do it. For example when we went swimming in the turtle Lake or climbing the monster pine tree. I never told him, because I was afraid Rowdy then calls (tense: Rowdy would then call) me a wuss or something else. I thought Rowdy and I would never talk again. But you will never believe what happened today. Someone knocked at our door. Ok that's not really exciting. But guess who stood in front of the door – Rowdy. I couldn't believe it. I was so surprised. He pretended he's bored, but I didn't believe him. Then he asked if I wanted to shoot some hoops. For a second I thought about saying no, I wanted

Kommentiert [J11]: At the very beginning, you surely greet your diary.

Kommentiert [J12]: Every diary entry needs a date. Make sure it's in English (AE or BE, according to the rest of your text).

Kommentiert [J13]: Emotional, written expression and outbursts are a common feature in diary entries.

In addition, you pay attention to the structure and lead in to what you're about to report by briefly summing up the overall mood of the day.

Kommentiert [J14]: Addressing your diary directly, proves your personal relationship and makes your text authentic.

What follows is a detailed description of the past day, introduced by a new paragraph. Well done.

Kommentiert [J15]: There is a clear break in your telling here. A new topic starts, so show this not only by the marker "but" but also by setting a new paragraph.

Kommentiert [J16]: Interacting with the diary by for example asking it questions is a very successful way to make it an interesting and convincing read.

him to apologize for his behavior. But then I realized that he will never change. So I agreed. When we were playing I couldn't help but ask Rowdy if he wanted to go to Reardan with me. He didn't answer, but he talked about a book he read. It was about old-time Indians, about how they used to be nomadic. And he said that I am the only nomadic Indian. And that he knew that at one point I would leave him behind and travel the world. And then he said that he was happy for me, because I am happy. That was the point where I started crying, because that was the nicest thing he ever said to me. And then we just played basketball without counting the points.

I really missed spending time with Rowdy. No matter what, he will always be my best friend. Speaking of friends, I really miss my white friends and I'm looking forward at (preposition) meeting them again. Gordy wanted (tense) to come to the rez and stay one or two weeks. And I hope Penelope writes me back –I sent her three love letters.

Love Junior.

Further notes:

All in all, this a really good work (see comment section). There are two more features that are typical, but not mandatory, of a dairy entry that you didn't find here but maybe included in your own texts.

- Mind slips and topic leaps can be part of diary entry because strictly speaking, no reader from the outside needs to understand. It's a private dialogue between you and your diary. Unfinished thoughts and sentences would be further examples in this regard.

- Colloquial and informal language is accepted and, to a reasonable scope, wished for in this text format.

Kommentiert [J17]: You managed to report on what happened as well as on what you felt and thought in this situation. Both components need to be part of diary entry.

Kommentiert [J18]: "But then I ... And then he ... And then we ...":
A diary entry is not a (chronological) retelling of what happened that day. You only report those events that have a relevance for you.
You can leave things out and even add / invent things that aren't part of the original text.

Kommentiert [J19]: see above

Kommentiert [J110]: After recounting its events, you finish with a resume of the day.

Kommentiert [J111]: You're right to end your diary entry with an outlook on future events. You could have elaborated in greater detail on this, for example by taking Rowdy into consideration as well (e.g. What might happen after their one-on-one basketball game? How does their friendship continue?)

Kommentiert [J112]: Correctly, you finish with a personal parting phrase here.