

# COMPOSITION (ESSAY) WRITING

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**Composition writing** is the process of expressing ideas in written form in a coherent and structured way. It allows the writer to communicate thoughts, emotions, and experiences while adhering to specific rules of grammar, style, and structure. Compositions vary depending on their purpose, audience, and content.

## Types of Compositions

**1. Narrative Composition:** Tells a story or recounts an event. It typically follows a chronological order and includes characters, a setting, and a plot.

- Example: A story about your vacation or an adventure.

**2. Descriptive Composition:** Focuses on describing a person, place, object, or event in vivid detail. It engages the reader's senses—sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch.

- Example: Describing a beautiful beach or a person's appearance.

**3. Expository Composition:** Provides information, explains a concept, or clarifies a subject. The purpose is to inform or explain without expressing personal opinions.

- Example: A composition explaining how plants grow or the process of recycling.

**4. Argumentative/Persuasive Composition:** Presents a point of view on a specific topic and supports it with evidence and reasoning, trying to persuade the reader to accept the writer's opinion.

- Example: Writing about the benefits of a healthy diet or arguing for school uniform policies.

## **Four Parts of a Composition**

### **1. Title:**

- Every composition should have a relevant and engaging title that gives a hint of the content.

### **2. Introduction:**

- Introduces the topic and provides a brief overview of the main idea.
- Engages the reader and gives them an idea of what the composition will discuss.
- Often ends with a thesis statement in argumentative or expository writing.

### **3. Body:**

- The main part of the composition where ideas are developed and explained in detail.
- Each paragraph should focus on one main idea, supported by evidence, examples, or descriptions.
- Transitions between paragraphs ensure the composition flows smoothly.

### **4. Conclusion:**

- Summarizes the main points of the composition.
- Restates the thesis in a new way (if applicable) and provides closure to the discussion.
- May include a call to action or final thought in persuasive writing.

## **Figures of Speech in Composition Writing**

Figures of speech enhance compositions by adding creativity, vividness, and clarity. Below are idioms, metaphors, and similes:

1. **IDIOMS:** These are phrases or expressions whose meanings are different from the literal meanings of the words.

- Example 1: “**break the ice**” – to initiate a conversation in a social setting.

- Example 2: **“bite the bullet”** – to endure a painful situation or perform a difficult task.

### **More common idioms used in composition writing**

**a blessing in disguise** – Something that seems bad at first but turns out to be good.

Example: Losing that job was a blessing in disguise; it pushed me to start my own business.

**burn the midnight oil** – To work late into the night.

Example: She had to burn the midnight oil to finish her project on time.

**hit the nail on the head** – To say or do something exactly right

Example: His answer in the meeting hit the nail on the head.

**once in a blue moon** – Something that happens very rarely. Example: We only see each other once in a blue moon because of our busy schedules.

**barking up the wrong tree** – To pursue a mistaken or misguided course of action.

Example: If you think she'll help you with that, you're barking up the wrong tree.

**beat around the bush** – To avoid getting to the point.

Example: Stop beating around the bush and tell me what's bothering you.

**the ball is in your court** – It's your decision or responsibility to take action next.

Example: I've given you all the information; now the ball is in your court.

**cost an arm and a leg** – Very expensive

Example: The new car costs an arm and a leg, but it's worth it.

**cut corners** – To do something poorly or cheaply to save time or money.

Example: Don't cut corners when it comes to safety measures. **under the weather** –

Feeling ill or unwell.

Example: I couldn't go to school today because I was feeling under the weather. These idioms add flavor to writing, making it more relatable and expressive.

**In conclusion, idioms enrich writing by adding expressiveness and clarity. They help convey ideas in a memorable and engaging way, making the text more interesting and relatable. Using idioms effectively can enhance communication and add depth to your compositions.**

2. **METAPHORS**: a direct comparison between two unlike things without using “like” or “as.”

- Example 1: “**time is a thief**” – implying that time steals moments from our lives.

- Example 2: “**the classroom was a battlefield**” – indicating a tense or chaotic environment.

### **More common metaphors used in composition writing**

**Life is a journey** – Suggesting that life is full of experiences and adventures.

- Example: Life is a journey filled with twists and turns.

**The world is a stage** – Life is like a performance where people act out different roles.

- Example: The world is a stage, and we are all actors in it.

**His heart is a stone** – Describing someone as being emotionally cold or unfeeling.

- Example: His heart is a stone; he never shows any emotion.

**The classroom was a zoo** – Referring to a chaotic or noisy environment.

- Example: The classroom was a zoo during the lunch break.

**Ideas are wings** – Meaning ideas give you the ability to achieve or imagine new possibilities.

- Example: Her ideas are wings that help her soar above challenges.

**She has a heart of gold** – Referring to someone as very kind or generous.

- Example: She has a heart of gold, always helping those in need.

**The sky was a blanket of stars** – Describing the night sky full of stars.

- Example: The sky was a blanket of stars, twinkling brightly above.

**His words were a double-edged sword** – Suggesting that his words can both help and hurt.

- Example: His words were a double-edged sword, offering comfort but also criticism.

**The storm was a monster** – Referring to a storm as being violent and destructive.

- Example: The storm was a monster, tearing through the town without mercy.

**These metaphors help make writing more vivid and engaging by comparing one thing to another in a creative way.**

3. **SIMILES**: a comparison between two different things using “like” or “as.”

- Example 1: “**She swims like a fish**” – comparing someone’s swimming ability to that of a fish.

- Example 2: “**He was as brave as a lion**” – comparing someone’s bravery to that of a lion.

#### **More common similes used in composition writing**

**as busy as a bee** – describing someone very active or hardworking.

- Example: She was as busy as a bee, preparing for the event.

**as cold as ice** – describing something or someone very cold or unemotional.

- Example: His response was as cold as ice, showing no sympathy.

**as light as a feather** – describing something very light.

- Example: The scarf was as light as a feather in her hand.

**as quick as lightning** – describing someone or something very fast.

- Example: He ran as quick as lightning to catch the bus.

**as clear as crystal** – describing something very clear or easy to understand.

- Example: The instructions were as clear as crystal.

**as strong as an ox** – describing someone very strong physically.

- Example: He lifted the heavy box as strong as an ox.

**as stubborn as a mule** – describing someone very stubborn or unyielding.

- Example: She refused to change her mind, as stubborn as a mule.

**as quiet as a mouse** – describing someone very quiet or shy.

- Example: During the meeting, she sat there as quiet as a mouse.

**as smooth as silk** – describing something very smooth or soft.

- Example: The fabric felt as smooth as silk against her skin.

**In conclusion, similes are a powerful literary tool in composition writing, adding vivid imagery and making comparisons that enhance the reader’s understanding. By using familiar comparisons like “as brave as a lion” or “as quick as lightning,” writers can effectively convey characteristics, emotions, and actions in a way that resonates with the audience. Similes, along with other figures of speech, enrich the writing, making it**

**more engaging, relatable and easier to visualize. When used thoughtfully, similes can elevate the quality of a composition and leave a lasting impact on the reader.**

## **GUIDELINES FOR COUNTING WORDS IN A COMPOSITION**

When writing a composition with a word limit, the total number of words includes:

1. All individual words: Each distinct word counts as one. For example, “sports,” “day,” and “school” are counted as separate words.
2. Contractions: Words like “it’s” and “don’t” count as one word each.
3. Articles: Words such as “a,” “an,” and “the” count as individual words.
4. Prepositions: Words like “in,” “on,” “at,” and “with” are counted.
5. Names and titles: Full names, titles, and school names count as individual words (e.g., “St. Noah Primary School” counts as four words).

**Note: Punctuation marks (commas, periods) are not counted as words.**

**You can count manually to ensure your composition falls within the required range of words.**

## **SAMPLE COMPOSITION TOPICS**

HOW TO BAKE A DELICIOUS CAKE AT HOME

CARING FOR PETS

HOW TO STAY SAFE WHILE DRIVING

HOW DEBATING CAN HELP YOU SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY

USING A DICTIONARY TO IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH

WHY REGULAR VEHICLE MAINTENANCE IS IMPORTANT

WHY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARE IMPORTANT FOR STUDENTS

HOW ELECTRONIC MEDIA AFFECTS YOUNG PEOPLE

HOW TO MAKE A SIMPLE SALAD

WHY EXERCISE IS GOOD FOR YOU

THE BENEFITS OF EATING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES