My dear diary!

You are preparing yourself to meet a new friend. Are you excited? Let’s learn more about it.

What is a diary?

**Diary** entries are a personal form of writing and use a very informal, chatty style, about your feelings, emotions, etc.

1. Open and read the document “Dear Diary”.

2. Answer these questions after your reading.

   a. The author presents two advantages of the diary in his first entry. Can you identify it?
   b. Is the author a boy or a girl? How do you know?
   c. Explain why the boys would laugh at the author.
   d. On March 7, the author writes: “Ok. I need your help.” How can his diary help him?
   e. The author feels guilty because he knows what happened at school. How would you react if the same situation happened to you?
   f. On March 8, why does the author feel better?
   g. What was your reaction when you read about how the author solved the problem?

3. What are the diary’s characteristics?

   - What makes you say it’s a diary and not a recipe?

**Diary’s characteristics**
For each characteristic, find examples in the text (diary) you just read.

a. **Chronological order**: listing events in the order in which they happened.

b. **Time connections**: words or phrases which are used to tell a reader WHEN something is happening (first, later, finally, yesterday, this morning, …).

c. **Thoughts and feelings**: the way you think or feel about something.

d. **Other people’s thoughts and feelings**: the way other people think or feel (he loved it, she was so excited, …)

e. **Writing in first person**: now, it’s time to use me, myself and I.

f. **Past tense**: since you write about something that happened earlier, you use the past tense: I went, I liked, I saw, we did, …

**Now, let’s learn more about diaries.**

Because your diary is very personal, you include everything you want, such as:

- an exciting or bad experience that happened during the day or anytime before;
- your feelings or opinions about a certain subject, event or topic;
- your future dreams;
- your best friends;
- some pictures, etc.

What you would tell your best friend can be written in your diary.
Of course, you can write in a diary. In fact, you should. Boys have feelings too.

**Diary writing is a good activity:**

- for those who have literary skills;
- for those who want to just vent out their emotions depending on how they feel.
- for those who like to look back at their life and analyze themselves. You will do that later, when you get older.

Diary writing is not just about words. You can also create self-portraits, pen portraits of others; express your experience, hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, etc. with these graphics. However, don't overdo it; you don't want it look like a scrapbook. You can also use some **photos** or anything to make it more creative and attractive. If you went to a theater to see an interesting movie or a concert, you can paste your **entry passes or tickets** to make it memorable.

The fun part of writing a diary is that **you don't have to write every day**. You write only if you really feel like writing in a diary. You don't even have to correct your mistakes. This is marvelous! If you don't like writing, **avoid details**. Writing in detail about everything will make your writing boring and will drain your energy.
You can write **before your day begins** and **before the day ends** or one of the others. Writing **before the day begins**, gives you the chance to express your emotions about how the day will turn out to be, what might happen during the day, what you dreamt in the night, etc. At night you can summaries the events of your day, you can relate it to the emotions you had in the morning and so on.

**For your second question:**

- If someone finds it, explain to her/him that this is very personal and he/she shouldn't read it. Invite them to have their own diary.

A diary is very personal, so it should be written in a private place, like your bedroom, study room or any place where there is nobody else present. It is best to write where nobody can see you writing in your diary. This will reduce the possibility of the other person's attention towards your dairy.

- Keep your diary secret as far as possible. For keeping it a secret you can write in a coded form and put it in a safe place. Some diaries have a lock with a key.

How do you feel about all this information? Does it seem like fun? We are almost there.
● For effective diary writing, you can address your diary as a second person, like “Hi! Diary”, “Dear Diary” or anything like a friend, bro or name it like Jess, Sam, etc. This method is effective because we tend to be more open about our emotions. It’s like writing to a real friend. If you want, find a name for your diary. A name that means something to you.

I have enough of all their questions!

Last question: Can I write it down on a piece of paper?

● NO! Sorry for my reaction! Most important of all, the diary should be of high-quality paper and written by a quality pen. It will last forever.
Writing task

If you don’t have a diary yet, write down your first page on the computer or on a piece of paper (that you will transcript in your diary). If you have a new diary, write directly in it.

You are meeting your diary for the first time. Since you will tell him all your secrets, you will introduce yourself, as you would do if you’d meet someone for the first time.

- Introduce yourself (name, age, address)
- Write about your interests, personality, hobbies, friends, etc.
- Write your intentions: share your dreams, passions, emotions, etc.
- Add decor or pictures of yourself.
- Write the first page.
- Sign your name at the bottom.

Remember:

- date
- salutation
- development
- conclusion (So, this was my day! Have a good night! Talk to you later! Thanks for being there for me!, ...)

Hope writing in your diary will be an occasion to let you feel free to talk about any subject. Be truthful. Otherwise, there is no purpose in having a diary.