

UNIT 1

Composition

1

Subject

Describe your education up to now. Mention the different schools and colleges you have attended. Bring into your composition the difficulties and successes you have had and anything else you remember clearly.

Structure Practice

Here are two examples of the type of sentence practised in this composition:

When I was five years old, I started my primary education.

I studied for four hours every evening while I was preparing for my final examinations.

Use the following incomplete sentences, substitution tables and questions to talk about your education. Whenever possible say things which could be true. Try to make up similar sentences and questions of your own.

1. Complete the following sentences. You can complete each sentence several times in different ways.

Before I went to school,

When I was . . . years old,

After I had studied for . . . years in primary school,

While I was studying in secondary school,

Example: Before I went to school, I spent my time playing with my friends.

Ask one another the following questions. You can answer each question in many different ways.

2.

When were you given your first

- fountain pen?
- bicycle?
- pair of long trousers?
- watch?
- handbag?
- (etc.)

Example: I was given my first bicycle when I passed the entrance examination to secondary school.

3.

What subjects did you study

What games did you play

Where did you live

What kind of clothes did you wear

when you were at

- primary school?
- intermediate school?
- secondary school?
- university?
- teacher training college?

Example: I wore a school uniform when I was at secondary school.

2

4.

How did you feel before you heard the result of the examination while you were studying for the examination after you heard the result of the examination

- primary school
- intermediate school
- university
- secondary school
- final entrance examination?

Example:

I felt very excited before I heard the result of the secondary school entrance examination.
 I felt very frightened
 I felt very hopeful
 I felt very worried

5. Below is an incomplete substitution table. Use this to make up complete sentences. It is possible to make up a large number of different sentences.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------|
| I began to learn English | when |
| I went to a boarding school | before |
| I successfully passed all my examinations | after |
| I used to wear . . . | while |
| I had to travel . . . miles every day | |
| I ate my lunch at home | |
| I studied for . . . hours every evening | |

Example: I studied for four hours every evening while I was preparing for my final examinations

■ For this composition you have practised sentences containing clauses which begin with the words *when, before, after, while*. We shall call these clauses *time clauses*.

Sample Composition

Read through the following:

Before I went to school, I spent my time playing with my friends. When the weather was bad, I had to stay at home and my mother used to try to teach me to read and write. When I was five years old, I started my primary education. My family lived in a small town in Scotland. I used to go home when the bell rang for lunch. After I finished lunch, I quickly ran back to school. We used to play football in the school playground before the afternoon classes began. When I was at primary school, I studied very simple subjects. The second world war started after I had been at primary school for three years. In 1942 I sat the entrance examination to junior secondary school. I felt very worried before I heard the result of this examination. I was very pleased when I passed successfully. While I was at junior secondary school, I started studying French and Latin. We were not taught very well because many teachers had gone to the war. When the war ended in 1944, the teachers came back to the school. In 1945 I sat the entrance examination to senior secondary school. While I was waiting for the results of this examination, I again felt very worried.

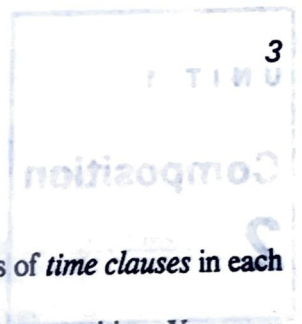
I was given my first bicycle when I passed this examination. I had to cycle six miles every morning before I reached school. After I entered senior secondary school, I started studying very hard. I did three hours' homework every evening when I got home. While I was studying in the evenings, I often wanted to go out. At school we used to play football or tennis in the afternoons when the weather was good. Once, while I was playing football, I broke my arm. I became a school prefect¹ when I reached the final year of senior secondary school.

After I passed my final examinations in October 1947, I left school and went to university.

¹ prefect: one of a number of senior pupils in a school who are given responsibilities and some authority.

Composition 1

Preparation and Writing of Student's Composition



1. Now write down some sentences from the structure practice.
2. Carefully re-read the sample composition, counting the number of examples of *time clauses* in each paragraph.
3. Make sure you use several sentences containing *time clauses* in your own composition. You may find it useful to refer to the sample composition while you are writing your own composition.
4. When you have written your composition, give it to a friend to read.

Structure Practice

The type of sentence practised in this composition is the same as in Composition One.
Use the following incomplete sentences, substitution tables and questions to talk about a journey you once made. Wherever possible say things which could be true. Try to make up similar sentences of your own.

1. Complete the following sentences. You can complete each sentence several times in different ways.

When I was living in ...
After I packed my suitcase ...
While I was buying my ticket ...
Before I got on the train ...
As soon as the train ...
I ...

Use the following incomplete sentences. You can complete each sentence several times in different ways.