B1 Preliminary · Writing Part 2: article or story

B1 Preliminary strategy notes; invented examples, not official Cambridge items.

Answers or movement

> The article answers the reader; the story moves the reader. Pick the one you can write better today.

- A choice: a magazine article or a story, about 100 words.
- No prize for choosing the harder one; the clock is a budget.

The article, with personality

1. **Answer the title question in line one** My favourite place is the school roof at sunset.
2. **Two reasons or examples** What you see; how it feels.
3. **Close with an invitation** Go there once. You'll see.

Decision

An article is not an **essay**: direct, personal, a little lively.

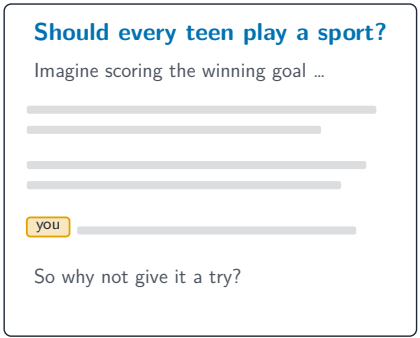
Your turn: the first line

Your turn

"What's the best season in your city?" — the best opening line:

A. Nowadays, with the development of the city...
B. Autumn is the best season here, and the ginkgo trees are the proof.
C. There are four seasons in a year.
D. The seasons are very important.

The shape of an article



a **title** that catches interest: a question or a surprising fact

a strong first line **hooks** the reader

middle: one idea per paragraph, with your **view** and reasons

speak to the reader directly with "you"

an ending that leaves the reader **thinking**

An ending that speaks to the reader

The springboard sentence

Inherit the sentence

"The door opened slowly, and I couldn't believe my eyes."

Tense: past. Place: at the door. Mood: surprise. Continue it, don't restart it.

Your turn: the drift

Your turn

The story so far is past tense. The next line:

A. I pick up the box and open it quickly.
B. I picked up the box and opened it quickly.
C. I will pick up the box.
D. I have picked up the box every day.

One task, committed

The choice is part of the task

Choose one task and commit; only one is marked.

The 八股 template — Nowadays… In conclusion… — is quietly penalised.

Try it

1. **The article** "What's the best way to spend a free afternoon in your town?" — where, what, why, a line to the reader.
2. **The story** "I knew it was going to be a strange day when I saw the dog on the bus."
3. **Swap and score** A partner gives 0–5 for each of the four criteria; rewrite the weakest part.

Decision

About 100 words, 35 minutes, one task at a time.

Check yourself

- The better-today task, chosen in thirty seconds.
- The article answers the title question in line one.
- The story inherits the given sentence — tense, place, mood.
- One scene, one turn, about 100 words.