

Writing skills practice: A magazine article – exercises

Look at the article and do the exercises to improve your writing skills.

Preparation

Do you know how to write a magazine article? Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | An article should always be written using formal language. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | You should use paragraphs when writing an article. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Don't express your opinion in an article. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Your article should have a catchy title. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | You should ask the reader questions in your article. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

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Your writing

We invite our readers to give their opinions by writing an article on the following subject:

Bullying



How serious a problem is bullying in schools where you live, and what can be done to stop bullying at school?

The best article will be published in the next issue of our magazine.

The happiest days of your life?

by Jamie Field

School days should be a happy time in a young person's life. **What can make people's lives a misery during this time, then?** In my opinion, there is one word which answers this question – bullying.

Unfortunately, bullying is quite common in schools where I live. It can affect students of any age, and both boys and girls. **A friend of mine** had a very negative experience at school last year as an older boy continually called him names and sometimes used to post nasty messages about him on Facebook. **Obviously,** my friend felt very upset about this and it affected his self-confidence. Some days, he didn't want to come to school at all.

What can people do to stop this problem? **Personally,** I think teachers need to be aware that bullying may be happening in their classes and be very strict when they have a case of bullying. Another thing teachers could do is prepare lessons to talk about the problem with their pupils, which might make bullies realise how badly they hurt their victims. As for students, if they find out a classmate is being bullied, they should support them as much as possible and let a teacher know.

Bullying can be a nightmare but there are things we can do to prevent it. **Hopefully,** one day all students will be able to go to school without fear of being bullied.

Top Tips for writing

1. **Use a catchy title to get people interested.**
2. **Ask direct questions to get the reader's attention.**
3. **Use opinion adverbs to introduce your points.**
4. **Give a real-life example or talk about personal experience.**
5. **Choose a neutral or informal style, depending on the audience.**
6. **Divide your ideas into clear paragraphs.**

1. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best option to complete these sentences.

1. The writer thinks a person's school life **is never really happy / is the happiest time in their life / can be made miserable by bullying** .
2. Bullying is **common / rare / happening everywhere** , in the writer's experience.
3. The writer's friend was bullied **at school / online / at school and online** .
4. The boy who was being bullied had a very **strange / funny / bad** experience.
5. The writer thinks **students / teachers / parents** could do more about this problem.
6. **Students / Teachers / Parents** can also support people who are being bullied.

2. Check your writing: word 2 word – questions

Write the words in the correct order to make questions.

1. is What exactly bullying?
.....

2. do Why like behave bullies this?
.....

3. the bullying? are What consequences of
.....

4. a you tell teacher or Should parent?
.....

5. stop can What do bullying? to people
.....

3. Check your writing: gap fill – opinion adverbs

Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

Personally	Unfortunately	Surprisingly	Obviously	Basically
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1. _____, bullying is quite common in many schools.
2. _____, there are three types of bullying: physical, verbal and social.
3. _____, people who are being bullied often feel really upset by it.
4. _____, research shows that teachers only notice one in twenty-five bullying incidents.
5. _____, I think teachers could do more to stop bullying.

Discussion

How serious a problem is bullying where you live?

What can be done to stop bullying in schools?