

PRE-WRITING TASKS

Writing an e-mail to a friend about your first days back at school

Die folgenden Aufgaben und Materialien wurden von Lehrerinnen und Lehrern für Lehrkräfte der SEK I entwickelt und können als gesamtes Aufgabenpaket oder als Einzelaufgaben in den Unterricht integriert werden. Sie sollen Schülerinnen und Schüler beim Aufbau der individuellen Schreibfertigkeit in der Fremdsprache Englisch unterstützen. Das gesamte Aufgabenpaket umfasst *Exercises* und *Activities* zu den Aspekten *Task Achievement*, *Cohesion and Coherence*, *Grammar* und *Vocabulary*. Die *Exercises* und *Activities* entsprechen den zur Bewertung von Schülertexten herangezogenen Dimensionen der vom BIFIE entwickelten *Assessment Scale* (<https://www.bifie.at/node/3231>).

PRE-WRITING: E-mail

It is end of September. You have just got an e-mail from an American boy/girl you got to know in the holidays. In this e-mail he/she tells you about his/her first days back at school after the holidays.

Write an e-mail (120-150 words) to your friend and tell him/her about

- your (new) subjects
- your teachers
- the kids in your class
- your goals for the new school year
- your feelings about this school year

TASK ACHIEVEMENT 1

Look at the three beginnings. Which is the best one?

1 Dear Jamie,

In Austria there is school now. My first week at school was cool. We have new teachers and a new subject, French. It is difficult to learn the new words and phrases. Our new teachers are nice. My favourite subjects are maths and German. Last year I hated maths.

2 Hi Hannah,

How are you doing? I feel great in my new class. A lot of things have changed, so I want to tell you about my new class, my new teachers and some other things.

3 Dear Michael,

I want to tell you about my school, about the new subjects, my teachers and the kids in my class.

TASK ACHIEVEMENT 2

This task has 5 content points. Look at the list of ideas below and decide which box the ideas should go into.

A new teacher in my class
A problem subject for me
An unfriendly teacher in my class
I am sure I'll have a great year
I feel a little worried about maths
I like my new classroom - it looks super
I want to get better in English
I want to play for the school football team
I will practise hard for all my tests
It is great to be back with all my friends
My best friend in class
My biggest wish is to find a lot of friends
My favourite subject this year
My favourite teacher
My marks in maths should be better this year
My parents should be proud of me
New friends I have made
Number of boys and girls in my class
What I hate is all the tests
Why I don't like biology
Why I like maths
Why I like my best friend
Why I like my German teacher a lot

subjects

teachers

**kids in my
class**

my goals

**feelings
about the
school
year**

COHERENCE AND COHESION 1

This is part of what a student wrote in his e-mail. Pull the following words into the gaps.

AND BUT BECAUSE BECAUSE BUT SO

Last year I was in 2B, _____ now I am in 3A. I have many new teachers _____ a lot of them are nice. I have one new main subject too. I think French is a little difficult, _____ the words sound strange. Do you have new subjects this year?

In 3A there are many new students, _____ all my friends from last year are there too. There are thirty kids in my class, _____ life is not easy for our teachers. My biggest goal this year is to get good marks, _____ then my parents will be happy and I'll feel good.

What are your goals this year?

COHERENCE AND COHESION 2

This is how a student called Kathi planned her e-mail:

1. what I want to tell Peter about
2. subjects and teachers
3. my classmates
4. my goals this year and how I feel about my class
5. say good bye to him in a nice way

This is her text, but the paragraphs got all mixed up. Put the paragraphs into the correct order so that you get the text that Kathi wrote.

Dear Peter,

1

I hope you know more about me and my school now. Please write back if you have any more questions.

2

My main goal this year is to read more books and not to watch TV so much. Another thing that is important to me is that I can play a lot of football because I joined the school's girl team in September!

3

The new kids in my class are really friendly and helpful. We get along well and I'm sure we will have a lot of fun together in the next two years. But there are thirty kids in the class and that is a lot, so sometimes it's a bit loud.

4

I feel great about the beginning of the new school year because I am together with all my friends again. This is more important than homework and tests.

5

I have just one new subject but a lot of new teachers. The new subject is French and I think it's really cool, because I find languages interesting. I have new teachers in biology and in history too. Both are okay but I liked my old history teacher better.

6

I have never written an e-mail to an American boy before so I just hope I get everything right. I want to tell you about my new subjects and teachers, the kids in my class and my goals, and also how I feel about the new school year.

Yours,

Kathi

GRAMMAR 1

There are 5 points you have to write about in your e-mail. Tick which tense is the best one when you write about each point:

new subjects

- present
- past
- future

teachers

- present
- past
- future

kids in your class

- present
- past
- future

goals for the new school year

- present
- past
- future

feelings about the school year

- present
- past
- future

GRAMMAR 2

Read this e-mail a boy in year 3 wrote. Fill in the gaps with the correct verb form. The first one has been done for you.

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your e-mail. Yes, you are right, school has started for me too.

I (1) am in a new class now. There (2) _____ only two boys but 28 girls. The girls are not so terrible but sometimes they (3) _____ on my nerves when they scream in the breaks.

We all (4) _____ a new subject, and that is French. In the first lesson four weeks ago I (5) _____ it was very difficult, but now we have a lot of fun. Our French teacher (6) _____ games with us and we also sing songs in French. She (7) _____ us homework every day and that is cool.

I (8) _____ very positive about this school year because the kids are friendly and most of our teachers seem okay too. My goals for this year are to get good marks in French and to do better in maths than last year. I hope I (9) _____ a good first maths test next week.

Our class (10) _____ to Vienna in December, and I'm sure we (11) _____ a lot of fun there.

So that's all for today. Please write back soon.

Yours,
Matthias

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. am | was | will be |
| 2. were | are | will be |
| 3. have got | got | get |
| 4. had | have | will have |
| 5. thought | think | will think |
| 6. will play | plays | played |
| 7. didn't give | won't give | doesn't give |
| 8. feel | felt | will feel |
| 9. write | wrote | will write |
| 10. travels | travelled | will travel |
| 11. had | will have | have |

VOCABULARY 1

What can teachers be like?

When describing your teachers it is good to know different words for positive and negative characteristics. Look at the words and sort them into positive (+) and negative (-) words.

angry

cheerful

cool

fair

friendly

good fun

helpful

horrible

optimistic

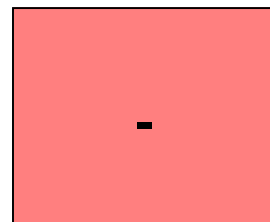
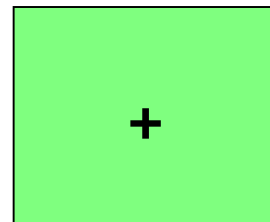
popular with everyone

too strict

unfair

unfriendly

unpopular



VOCABULARY 2

In this text you have to write about 5 different things. Look at the phrases and decide which box they should go into.

enjoy the lesson

he can explain things well to his students

make new friends

have success in

it will be hard work I guess

hard and boring lessons

this teacher always shouts

fight in the break

improve my marks

I think I'll manage

French is interesting

a cool head teacher

get on well with each other

practise speaking English more

feel optimistic

teachers

new subjects

kids in my class

feelings

goals

KEY

TASK ACHIEVEMENT 1

Look at the three beginnings. Which is the best one?

2 Hi Hannah,

How are you doing? I feel great in my new class. A lot of things have changed, so I want to tell you about my new class, my new teachers and some other things.

TASK ACHIEVEMENT 2

This task has 5 content points. Look at the list of ideas below and decide which box the ideas should go into.

Teachers	A new teacher in my class
Subjects	A problem subject for me
Teachers	An unfriendly teacher in my class
Feelings about the school year	I am sure I'll have a great year
Feelings about the school year	I feel a little worried about maths
Feelings about the school year	I like my new classroom - it looks super
My goals	I want to get better in English
My goals	I want to play for the school football team
My goals	I will practise hard for all my tests
Feelings about the school year	It is great to be back with all my friends
Kids in my class	My best friend in class
My goals	My biggest wish is to find a lot of friends
Subjects	My favourite subject this year
Teachers	My favourite teacher
My goals	My marks in maths should be better this year
My goals	My parents should be proud of me
Kids in my class	New friends I have made
Kids in my class	Number of boys and girls in my class
Feelings about the school year	What I hate is all the tests
Subjects	Why I don't like biology
Subjects	Why I like maths
Kids in my class	Why I like my best friend
Teachers	Why I like my German teacher a lot

COHERENCE AND COHESION 1

This is part of what a student wrote in his letter. Pull the following words into the gaps.

AND

BUT

BECAUSE

BECAUSE

BUT

SO

Last year I was in 2B, **BUT** now I am in 3A. I have many new teachers **AND** a lot of them are nice. I have one new main subject too. I think French is a little difficult, **BECAUSE** the words sound strange. Do you have new subjects this year?

In 3A there are many new students, **BUT** all my friends from last year are there too. There are thirty kids in my class, **SO** life is not easy for our teachers. My biggest goal this year is to get good marks, **BECAUSE** then my parents will be happy and I'll feel good.

What are your goals this year?

COHERENCE AND COHESION 2

Dear Peter,

6

I have never written an e-mail to an American boy before so I just hope I get everything right. I want to tell you about my new subjects and teachers, the kids in my class and my goals, and also how I feel about the new school year.

5

I have just one new subject but a lot of new teachers. The new subject is French and I think it's really cool, because I find languages interesting. I have new teachers in biology and in history too. Both are okay but I liked my old history teacher better.

3

The new kids in my class are really friendly and helpful. We get along well and I'm sure we will have a lot of fun together in the next two years. But there are thirty kids in the class and that is a lot, so sometimes it's a bit loud.

2

My main goal this year is to read more books and not to watch TV so much. Another thing that is important to me is that I can play a lot of football because I joined the school's girl team in September!

4

I feel great about the beginning of the new school year because I am together with all my friends again. This is more important than homework and tests.

1

I hope you know more about me and my school now. Please write back if you have any more questions.

Yours,
Kathi

GRAMMAR 1

There are 5 points you have to write about in your e-mail. Tick which tense is the best one when you write about each point:

<i>new subjects</i>	- present
<i>teachers</i>	- present
<i>kids in your class</i>	- present
<i>goals for the new school year</i>	- future
<i>feelings about the school year</i>	- present

GRAMMAR 2

Read this e-mail a boy in year 3 wrote. Fill in the gaps with the correct verb form. The first one has been done for you.

Dear Joe,

Thank you for your e-mail. Yes, you are right, school has started for me too.

I (1) am in a new class now. There (2) **ARE** only two boys but 28 girls. The girls are not so terrible but sometimes they (3) **GET** on my nerves when they scream in the breaks.

We all (4) **HAVE** a new subject, and that is French. In the first lesson four weeks ago I (5) **THOUGHT** it was very difficult, but now we have a lot of fun. Our French teacher (6) **PLAYS** games with us and we also sing songs in French. She (7) **DOESN'T GIVE** us homework every day and that is cool.

I (8) **FEEL** very positive about this school year because the kids are friendly and most of our teachers seem okay too. My goals for this year are to get good marks in French and to do better in maths than last year. I hope I (9) **WILL WRITE** a good first maths test next week.

Our class (10) **WILL TRAVEL** to Vienna in December, and I'm sure we (11) **WILL HAVE** a lot of fun there.

So that's all for today. Please write back soon.

Yours,
Matthias

VOCABULARY 1

What can teachers be like?

When describing your teachers it is good to know different words for positive and negative characteristics. Look at the words and sort them into positive (+) and negative (-) words.

- angry
- + cheerful
- + cool
- + fair
- + friendly
- + good fun
- + helpful
- horrible
- + optimistic
- + popular with everyone
- too strict
- unfair
- unfriendly
- unpopular

VOCABULARY 2

In this text you have to write about 5 different things. Look at the phrases and decide which box they should go into.

new subjects	enjoy the lesson
teacher	he can explain things well to his students
kids in my class	make new friends
goals	have success in
feelings	it will be hard work I guess
new subjects	hard and boring lessons
teacher	this teacher always shouts
kids in my class	fights in the break
goals	improve my marks
feelings	I think I'll manage
new subjects	French is interesting
teacher	a cool head teacher
kids in my class	get on well with each other
goals	practise speaking English more
feelings	feel optimistic