



CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT ENGLISH

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

Activity 12: Journaling





Journaling

CEFR Level: B1 (8 -10 year olds)

Activity Aims	Students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. identify the conventions of personal journals.2. write a journal entry.
Strategy/Pedagogy	Group work, directed reading and individual student writing.
Short Description	In this activity, students will study two journal entries to understand the format and style of journaling before writing their own personal journals.



Introduction

1. Show students the picture below. You may put it on a PowerPoint slide or print it out for the students.
2. Elicit a discussion from the class. You may use the following questions as prompts:
 - What is the boy on the right doing?
 - Why do you think he is taking a picture?
 - Why do we take pictures?
 - Can you think of any other way to record memories?
3. Next, show students the picture of the diary. Ask them what they think the book is and what it is for.
4. Pose the following questions to the students:
 - What type of book is this?
 - What is the boy writing about in the book?
 - Who is the boy writing to?





Introduction

5. Introduce students to the concept of a personal journal. Pose the following questions to the class and have them discuss the answers as a class:
 - What is a journal?
 - Do any of you keep a journal or diary, and what do you write in it?
 - Why would someone write a journal?
 - What sort of things would one write in a journal?
6. Explain to students that a journal is like a diary where people write their thoughts and emotions about incidents in their lives. Journals are usually private. Show students some blog samples from tumblr or other blog sites.
7. Inform students that they will be writing a journal entry in this lesson.



<https://marabird.wordpress.com>

<https://alexknowitall7.com>



Main Activity

1. In this lesson, students will write a diary or journal entry about their day.
2. Introduce students to the conventions of journal writing.
 - Journals usually start with the date.
 - They are usually written in the first person.
 - The tone is usually casual and sometimes conversational.
3. Explain the difference between a diary, journal, and a blog.
 - Diaries and journals are similar, where an individual records their thoughts, feelings, and emotions. They are usually handwritten in a book.
 - Blogs are basically diaries or journals that are online.
4. Tell students that they are going to read an extract from a famous diary entry. Provide them with some background information on Anne Frank.





Main Activity

5. Give students a copy of handout 1, the extract from “The Diary of Anne Frank” by Anne Frank.
6. Read the extract with the class. Give students some time to read the extract on their own before reading it out loud to the students or calling on students to read various sections of it. Go through any vocabulary or sentence structures that students may find difficult.
7. Divide the students into groups of 3-4. In their groups, students will identify the components from point 2 in the extract. Teacher may get groups to present their answers to the class.
8. They will then write their own journal entries individually, using the conventions they have identified from the two diary entries they have studied. Students may write about their school day, or something interesting they did at home. Give students a word limit suited to their abilities, 50 – 80 words. This task may be done as homework. These will be submitted to the teacher for assessment.

Extension Activities

1. Have students keep a journal for one week, writing at least one entry each day.
2. Consider getting students to start a blog.
3. For an extension activity, consider:

<https://www.cambridgeenglish.org/learning-english/activities-for-learners/a1w003-what-you-did-last-Saturday>

