

Subject: Diaries, blogs

Functions: Talking about events in the indefinite and recent past

Language: Present perfect with ever, never, just

The BIG question:

WHAT DO YOU KEEP PRIVATE?

FACT:

In 1999 there were only 23 blogs on the internet. Now there are over 70 million blogs on the internet with 120,000 new ones every day.

2 FOCUS ON ...

Words

A Put the feelings in the correct lists.

happy sad depressed angry excited
upset proud lonely scared relieved

Good feelings	Bad feelings
happy
.....

B 1 Add more words and phrases using the pictures.

Things I do in private	Things I do in public
• Cry if I'm sad	• Chat with my best friend
•	•

- 2 Work with a partner. Compare your lists.
a) Do you do the same things in private? And in public?
b) Do you show your feelings in public?

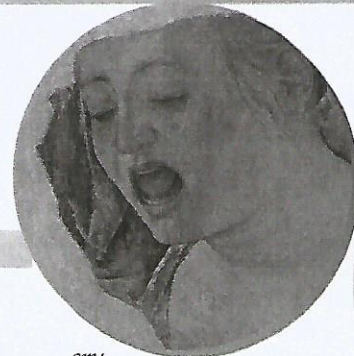
C Match these words and their definitions.

1 self-exposure	a) dealing with your problems by yourself
2 self-control	b) feeling sure about what you can do
3 self-confidence	c) showing your private feelings to the world
4 self-help	d) remaining calm even if you're angry or upset

D Complete the sentences with the correct words.

- 1 If you write your diary as a website, you're a ...
2 When you put details on a website, you are ...
3 If you can use the internet, you've got ...
4 A person who reads and corrects your work is an ...

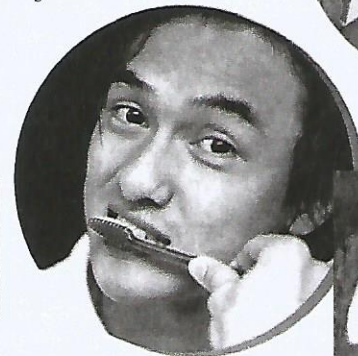
- a) access.
b) editor.
c) blogger.
e) posting them.



cry



chat



clean your teeth



dance

Ideas

Discuss these statements with a partner:

- A** The internet is the best way of communicating we've ever had.
B Private things are private – don't make them public.

3 READING

A Read the website quickly. How are blogs different to diaries in the past?

What bloggers say

Blogs are a great way to find friends on the internet with the same interests as you.

Ben

More...

LINKS

[Audio blogs](#)

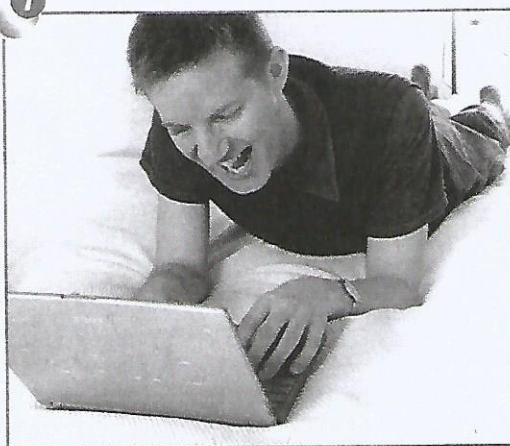
[Photo blogs](#)

Other blogs

[Fashion \(253\)](#)

[Cars \(356\)](#)

[Travel \(1743\)](#)



Writing a blog



Writing a diary

Have you ever wanted to tell people about your secret loves and hates? Have you ever shouted in public when you were angry or upset? Have you ever done something awful, then felt better after you told a friend? A blog gives you the chance to do just that ... and more! Blogs are online diaries where writers post details about their lives and thoughts for anyone to read. In the past, diaries were usually private. Some people published their diaries – but a long time after the events in them. Blogs are different: your diary and photos can be on the web in seconds! You can also get immediate feedback from your readers.

Here are just a few reasons to write a blog:

- You can publish news as it happens – and you don't need to be a professional journalist. Salam Pax, the famous Baghdad blogger, wrote about daily life during the Iraq War in 2003. "This is better than anything in the newspapers," said one reader. "We really feel what it is like when bombs fall around you."
- You can practise your writing skills. "I have complete freedom to publish my work online – without an editor changing things," says Tom Grant. "Writers have never had such a wonderful chance."
- You can share your feelings. "When my mother died, I was really depressed," says 16-year-old Kelly. "I had nobody to talk to, so last month I started a blog. I've had so much help from complete strangers."
- You can communicate personal experiences. "My boyfriend Sam and I write about everything in our blogs," says Emma Brown. "Sam has just proposed to me online in his blog – so romantic! How did I say 'yes'? In my blog, of course!"

← BACK

CREATE A BLOG NOW

FAQs

CONTACT

CONTINUE →

B Answer the questions. Who ...

- 1 used the internet to communicate an important decision?
- 2 got help with a personal experience?
- 3 wrote exactly what he wanted to write?
- 4 told people about life during a war?

C Discuss these questions with your class:

- 1 Read the three questions at the beginning of the website again. Is it easier to do these things online?
- 2 Do you think proposing online is romantic?
- 3 Have you ever blogged? When? What did you write about?

4 LANGUAGE

A Read the sentences and answer the questions.

- **Have** you ever **shouted** in public?
- Salam Pax **wrote** about life during the Iraq War in 2003.
- Sam **has just proposed** to me online.
- Last month I **started** a blog.

Which sentences refer to ...

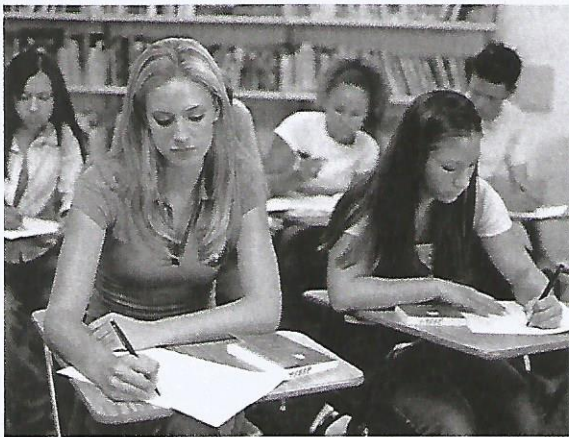
- 1 actions at a definite time in the past?
- 2 actions at an indefinite time in the past?

8 CREATIVE WRITING in English

Want to improve your writing skills? Want to write interesting pieces that people can't wait to read? Here are some writing tips.

1 GETTING STARTED

- Brainstorm ideas: write down as many ideas as you can, as quickly as you can.
- Think about your readers and write for them.
- Make an outline of what you want to say. Use bullet points.



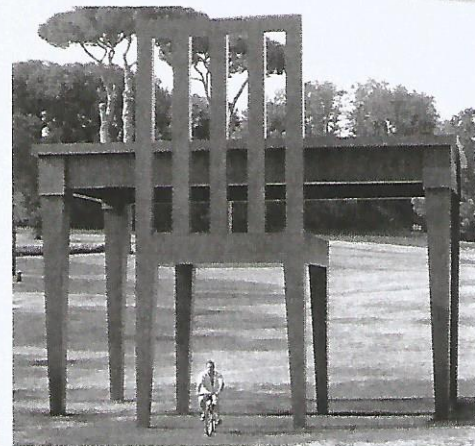
A creative writing group

2 WHILE WRITING

- Have you got a beginning, a middle and an end?
- Is your first sentence an attention-getter?
- Does the main story make sense?
- Are any words or sentences unnecessary?
- Is the end interesting?
- Can you spot any mistakes?

3 REVISING AND PUBLISHING

- Read your work aloud. Is it clear?
- Check your grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Read everything again.
- Ask someone else to check it.



"The Writer" by Giancarlo Neri

9 PORTFOLIO WRITING

Write a website diary about something that has happened to you recently. Explain what happened, how you felt, and how the story ended. Follow the tips above (120–150 words).

10 Your answer: WHAT DO YOU KEEP PRIVATE?

Is self-exposure on blogs a good thing? Are there some things that are too private to talk about with strangers? Is the internet the best way to communicate?



SEE WORKBOOK UNIT 7

Last word:

Can you use all the language items below? Write *Yes*, *No*, or *Almost* against each.

Functions: Talking about events in the indefinite and recent past

Language: Present perfect with *ever*, *never* and *just*

Vocabulary: The internet; personal events; writing skills

A Find words or phrases in the text that mean:

- 1 make something better
- 2 think of lots of ideas in a short time
- 3 a mark like this: •
- 4 plan
- 5 really interesting
- 6 find things that are wrong

B Answer the questions.

- 1 What do you find most difficult when you write in English?
 - a) making it clear
 - b) making it interesting
 - c) spotting mistakes
 - d) other difficulties (say what they are)
- 2 Which tips do you usually follow when you write?
- 3 Is there a tip you would like to try?

C Look at the pictures. What do you think: Is creative writing something you do alone or in a group?