

THEME-BASED VOCABULARY

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Supplementary Writing Tasks

These writing practice tasks aim to provide students with writing practice that will help them consolidate the vocabulary they have learnt in the units and boost their confidence in using them. They begin as guided writing tasks and move to free writing, thus helping students to gradually master the act of writing. Students are encouraged to write about 50 to 100 words, using as many words or phrases they learnt from the units.

Unit 1 • Birthday Party

Topic:

Imagine you went to your classmate Pat's birthday party last week. Write an email message to Keith, a classmate who didn't go to the party, telling him about it. You can write your email by answering these questions:

- Was it a surprise birthday party?
- Where and when was the party held?
- Were there any decorations?
- What food was there at the party?
- What did Pat do at the party? What did you do at the party?
- Were there any games?
- Did everyone enjoy the party?



Start your email like this:

To...	
Cc...	
Subject:	

Hi Keith,
I went to Pat's birthday party last week. ...

Unit 2 • Snacks

Topic:

What snacks do your family members like? Why do they like it? Write an essay titled 'My family's favourite snacks'.



My family's favourite snacks

I like having _____ as snacks because

My other family members have different favourite snacks, such as _____

We have snacks at home when we _____

I remember one time when _____

Unit 3 • Fruits

Topic:

Read about Sally's essay on her favourite fruit:

Among all the fruits we can buy in Hong Kong, I like apples the best. An apple is not as juicy as other fruits, but it tastes and smells really nice. It doesn't have a large stone; it only has small seeds in the middle. I don't even have to remove the skin before I eat it. Most importantly, I can enjoy it whenever I want as it is available all year.



Now write a piece of essay about your favourite fruit.

Among all the fruits we can buy in Hong Kong, I like _____

Unit 4 • Wet Market

Topic:

What is the wet market near your home like? Write a short description of it by answering these questions:

- a. What is the name of the wet market? Is it indoors or outdoors?
- b. How many floors does it have? What are the sections?
- c. How often do you go shopping there? Who do you go there with?
Do you have any unforgettable experience there?
- d. Is there a food court? If yes, have you tried the food there? Is the food nice?



You can start the passage like this:

The wet market near our home is called _____

Unit 5 • Clothes

Topic:

Find a family photo and describe the clothes your family members were wearing. You may want to write something like this:

This photo was taken on Grandma's birthday. Grandpa wears a cardigan all the time to keep him warm. My father always wears formal clothes because he works in a law firm. He was wearing a pink shirt on that day. That's my sister with a beautiful long-sleeved top and a pinafore and Mum's wearing a blouse. I was ...



Unit 6 • Leisure Activities

Topic:

Do a class survey to see what leisure activities your classmates enjoy. You may fill in your results on a chart like the one below and write a short report on your findings.

Activities		No. of classmates	
		Boys	Girls
Indoor activities  	Karaoke		
	Listening to music		
	Net surfing		
	Computer/Electronic games		
	Online chatting		
	Eating		
	Watching TV		
	Doing jigsaw puzzles		
	Model making		
	Reading		
	Drawing		
	Outdoor activities  	Ice skating	
Rollerblading			
Skateboarding			
Swimming			
Surfing			
Windsurfing			
Canoeing			
Cycling			
Kite flying			
Hiking			
Barbecuing			
Camping			
Others			

You may want to write something like this:

A lot of my classmates enjoy outdoor activities in their free time. Half of the class like swimming and almost all of us like barbecuing. A lot of boys like skateboarding and girls enjoy cycling and hiking the best. We also like indoor activities, and Net surfing is our favourite. An equal number of boys and girls enjoy computer games, and all of us watch TV after finishing our homework ...

Unit 7 • Weather

Topic:

Write a few sentences about the weather of these places for today.



Cairo, Egypt



Sydney, Australia



London, the UK



Hong Kong, China

You may want to write something like this:

Hong Kong is hot and humid today, and the maximum temperature is 32°C. Egypt is also very hot in the day, with a temperature of 28°C, but it gets chilly at night, with a temperature of 16°C ...

You can check the weather for these cities in the newspaper or online at the website of the Hong Kong Observatory: <http://www.hko.gov.hk>.

Unit 8 • The News

Topic:



Watch the news report for tonight on TV. How many news reports/items about crime are there? How many news reports about the government do you have today? Write a summary on the news report. Your summary may look like this:

There are several news reports on politics today, and they are all about the Chief Executive. There are also a lot of news reports about natural disasters in China. Luckily, we do not have any news about traffic accidents today ...

Unit 9 • At the Park

Topic:

Your friend, Gillian, gets a map to a place called 'Magic Park'. You two decide to go there and have a look. When you get there, you are amazed by what you see. Then, suddenly ...

Write a story about the park and what happens next. Try to be imaginative! The following questions may help you:

- What is in the park? How different is it from the usual park?
- Is there anyone in the park? Who are they? What are they doing?
- What are you doing there?
- What happens after you arrive at the park/when you are playing in the park/when you try to leave?



Unit 10 • Team Sport

Topic:

Be a sports reporter for your school newspaper! Go to a ball match in your school/during your P.E. lesson/in your community, and describe the match to your classmates. Write your article by answering these questions:

- What was the name of the team sport?
- When was the match?
- Who played against whom?
- Describe the match. Were both teams equally good? Was it exciting?
- Did the teams play a fair game?
- Were there any cheerleaders? Were there a lot of spectators?
- Which side won in the end?



You can start your article like this:

An exciting basketball match between our school and Moonlight Secondary School took place last night at ...

Unit 11 • Keeping Pets

Topic:

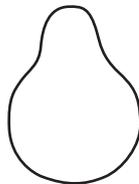
A lot of people in Hong Kong like to keep pets, but they may live in places that don't allow them to do so. Does the building you live in allow residents to keep pets? Do you think it is a good/bad idea to keep pets in your flat? Why? Write a short article that you can present to other residents telling them your views about keeping pets in your building.



Unit 12 • Zoo

Topic:

Hong Kong Zoo is going to have an animal from outer space! However, the animal is still an egg and it has not got any facial features or limbs yet. Ask your friends to each draw a feature on the animal below. Then write a passage about it. Tell people what its name is, what animals it looks like for each part or feature that you added, what it does and how the Zoo should look after it.



Unit 13 • Classroom

Topic:

Look at this picture on the right. How is this classroom in Thailand different from your classroom? What do you think of your own classroom? Write a short passage pointing out the differences between your classroom and the classroom in this picture, and expressing how you feel about the differences.



*A village school classroom in northern Thailand, 2003
(Photo courtesy of Friends of Northern Thailand)*

Unit 14 • Workers at School

Topic:

Interview a school worker and ask him/her about his/her everyday work. Then, write a short article about his/her work. You may want to ask the following questions:



What do you do in the morning/afternoon/before school/after school? How do you help the students?

Do you always work in the school?

Do you like your job? Do you think your job is easy/difficult/interesting/exciting etc?

Do you like the students?

Unit 15 • Rules and Manners

Topic:

You are the discipline teacher of Sunshine Secondary School. You find that recently, more and more students do not obey the rules and are badly behaved. Write a letter to the students telling them the problem. In your letter:

- describe the students' bad behaviour;
- explain why it is important for them to obey the rules and have good manners;
- tell them what they can do to improve their manners.

Begin and end your letter like this:

1 December

Dear students,

I have always been proud of you for obeying the rules and having good manners. I am sad to say, however, that this has changed recently. I notice that ...

It is important for you to obey the school rules and have good manners because ...

I have confidence that everyone will do their best to be a good student.

Yours sincerely,

Discipline Teacher

Unit 16 • Bathroom

Topic:

You had a strange dream last night. In your dream, you were in your bathroom when suddenly you shrank to the size of a pea. What did you see? What happened? Try to be as imaginative as possible, and think of a surprising ending to your story. You can start your story like this:



I had a very frightening dream last night. In my dream, I was combing my hair, and I suddenly felt that the comb was getting heavier and heavier. When I looked into the mirror, I saw that I was actually getting smaller and smaller! ...

Unit 17 • Living Room

Topic:

Look at the living room you designed in Task 2, Section C on p.81 of your book. A famous interior designer has seen your design, and he is very interested in knowing more about it. Write a short passage explaining your design to him. You should talk about the reasons for arranging the items in that way, and how you are going to use each piece of the furniture.



Unit 18 • Doing Housework

Topic:



Good morning, master. My name is Bibi.
What can I do for you?

to you as a birthday present. He said that Bibi is very clever and she can do a lot of housework, but Uncle Don is always very careless, and so is Bibi! Write about the first day of work for Bibi in your house. Is she good at her job? What happened?

Your Uncle Don is a scientist and inventor who has made this robot called Bibi and given it

Unit 19 • Body Parts

Topic:

Name three body parts that you think are the most important. Describe each of them, explain what you use them for and how they work with the rest of the body, and why you think they are the most important compared to other parts of the body.



Unit 20 • Personal Hygiene

Topic:



Look at the personal hygiene poster you designed in Task 2, Section C on p.93 of your book. Write a short passage explaining your design. You should mention the messages you try to get across, who will see the poster, what things are in your design and the reasons for them to be there.

Unit 21 • The Family

Topic:

Write a short history of your family. Ask members of the older generation in your family about interesting things that happened to your family members. You can also ask them about the important events that happened in the past, e.g. what happened during the World War II? How and when did your ancestors come to Hong Kong?



Unit 22 • Countries

Topic:

Imagine that you are the ambassador of your home country. Write a speech telling people from other countries about your home country — the food, buildings, currency, costumes, products, languages etc.



Unit 23 • Personality

Topic:



Pick a story or cartoon that you like. Describe the personalities of the main characters in the story. Which character do you like best? Do you have friends with similar personalities? Why do you like this story/cartoon?

Unit 24 • Ching Ming Festival

Topic:

How do you think Ching Ming Festival will be celebrated in 2100? Imagine what changes will have taken place by then, and write an article describing the differences.



Unit 25 • Land Transport

Topic:



Describe the different types of land transport used by members in your community. Which type of land transport do you use most frequently? Where do you take it to?