

Learning focus

- Text type:** ★ Personal description
- Grammar:** ★ Simple present tense ★ Definite and indefinite articles
- Vocabulary:** ★ Physical appearance ★ Personality
- Useful phrases:** ★ Phrases to describe a person

Text type in focus

Personal description



Structure

School has just started. ❶ Sam's English teacher has asked his class to write something about themselves so that ❷ he can get to know them better.

Introduction

Who is Sam? **Where** does he live? **Who** lives with him?

My name *is* Sam Leung. ❸ I *am* twelve years old. ❸ I *am* an S1 student at Glorious Secondary School. ❺ I *live* with my parents and my elder sister ❹ in Tseung Kwan O, which *is* very near *the* school. We *love* having *a* walk along *the* promenade after dinner every night.

Body

How does Sam look? **What** kind of person is he? **What** is his hobby?

❻ My face *is* a little *chubby*, so my friends have given me *a* nickname—'Fat Sam'. I *don't* really *like* *the* nickname since I *think* I *am* not *fat*. ❼ I *am* *a* very *cheerful* and *outgoing* person, and I *have* a lot of good friends who *share* the same interest with me. During weekends, ❽ we always *play* basketball together.

Conclusion

Other information about Sam

At school ❾ I *am* *the* class monitor. ❼ I *am* very *reliable* and *responsible*, so my teachers always *praise* me. However, ❾ I sometimes *get* grumpy because our teachers always *give* us a lot of homework. Therefore, I always *have* dessert after doing homework to cheer myself up!



Writing a personal description

Blacken the circles next to the correct answers.



Step 1

Understanding the writing question

- 1 **Who** is going to read Sam's personal description? His sister / His English teacher
- 2 **Why** is he writing it? To let his teacher know more about (himself / his family)



Step 2

Brainstorming the main points

(i) **Basic information about Sam:**

- 3 **Who** is Sam? A (12 / 13)-year-old student at Glorious Secondary School
- 4 **Where** does he live? At school / In Tseung Kwan O
- 5 **Who** does he live with? (His parents / His grandparents) and his elder sister

(ii) **Sam's appearance, personality and hobby:**

- 6 **How** does he look? He has a (chubby / square) face.
- 7 **What** kind of person is he? Talkative / Outgoing / Reliable / Cheerful / Friendly
- 8 **What** is his hobby? Playing badminton / Playing basketball

(iii) **Other information:**

- 9 **What** other information does Sam write about himself?
He is the (school prefect / class monitor).
He likes to have (a sleep / dessert) after finishing his homework.



Step 3

What grammar will you use when writing a personal description?

- ✓ **Simple present tense:**
to talk about *facts* and *habits*
- ✓ **Definite and indefinite articles:**
to refer to *specific* and *non-specific* people, things or places



Grammar in focus

Simple present tense

We use the simple present tense to talk about:

Things that are always true

e.g. Sam **has** an elder sister.
The sun **rises** in the east.

Things that are true now

e.g. Sam **lives** in Tseung Kwan O.
Mr Lee **is** my Maths teacher.

Habits and regular events

e.g. Dad **has** coffee at breakfast.
School **starts** at 8 a.m.

We need to change the third person singular form as shown in the following:

Verbs	First / Second person	Third person singular
(i) Most verbs	e.g. I ride a bicycle to school.	e.g. Jamie rides a bicycle to school.
(ii) Verbs ending in a consonant + y	e.g. We study Science at school.	e.g. Tim studies Science at school.
(iii) Verbs ending in <i>ch, sh, ss, x, o</i>	e.g. You teach Maths. I wash my clothes every day. I miss Uncle Tom a lot. We mix flour and egg together. We go to Central by ferry.	e.g. Miss Wong teaches Music. Amy washes her clothes every day. Ben misses Uncle Tom a lot. Sam mixes flour and egg together. May goes to Central by ferry.

A Blacken the circles next to the correct answers.

1. My sister (watch / watches) TV in the morning.
2. Chris and I (has / have) lunch together every Saturday.
3. Sammi never (tell / tells) lies to her parents.



B Complete the article below using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

My classmate – Grace

Everyone in our class (1) _____ (like) Grace. She is a very **neat** and **tidy** person, and she always (2) _____ (tie) her **wavy hair** in a ponytail. She (3) _____ (be) also a **diligent** student who always (4) _____ (study) hard. However, she (5) _____ (not do) sports and is very **thin**. We always (6) _____ (invite) her to do sports with us but she always (7) _____ (answer) 'no' and (8) _____ (say) she prefers reading. I have to say she is a very **stubborn** person!

Vocabulary in focus

Physical appearance



Glossary

A Match the pictures to the correct face shapes and hairstyles. Put the letters in the blanks.



Face shapes				Hairstyles		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Personality



Glossary

B Match the following people to the correct personalities. Put the words in the blanks.



- If Sam promises you to do something, he will complete the job. He is _____.
- I always see Sophie smile. She is a _____ girl.
- Tommy makes different shapes using only a few matchsticks. He is very _____.
- Jenny spends a lot of time studying every day. She is a _____ student.
- Ben doesn't like to take others' advice and sticks to his own way of doing things. He is really _____.
- Cindy talks non-stop with almost everyone. She is really _____.

Useful phrases

Phrases to describe a person

To introduce yourself:

- ★ My name is Sam Leung.
- ★ I am Sam Leung.
- ★ I am twelve years old.

To talk about your school:

- ★ I study at Glorious Secondary School.
- ★ I am an S1 student at Glorious Secondary School.

To talk about your family:

- ★ I live with my parents and my elder sister in Tsueng Kwan O.
- ★ I have an elder sister and a younger brother.
- ★ I am the eldest / youngest / only child in the family.
- ★ We love having a walk after dinner every night.

To describe your physical appearance:

- ★ My face is a little chubby.
- ★ I have an oval face and long, straight hair.

To talk about your hobbies:

- ★ I like playing basketball with my friends.
- ★ My hobbies are reading and playing the violin.

To talk about your personality:

- ★ I am a cheerful and outgoing person.
- ★ My friends think that I am reliable and responsible.



Your turn!

Writing a personal description

② In order to know your class more, ① your English teacher has asked everyone in the class to write a personal description. In the description, try to include various aspects of yourself, such as your family, friends, personality, hobbies and school life.

Step 1 Understanding the writing question

Blacken the circles next to the correct answers.

① **Who** is going to read your personal description?

Your English teacher / Your friends

② **Why** are you writing it?

To let your teacher know more about (yourself / your friends)



Step 2 Brainstorming the main points

Blacken the circles next to the correct answers and/or fill in the blanks.

(i) **Basic information about yourself:**

③ **What** is your name? _____

④ **How old** are you? _____ years old

⑤ **Where** do you study at? _____

⑥ **Where** do you live? In _____

⑦ **Who** do you live with?

My parents / My _____

⑧ **What** do you and your family members like to do?

Have a walk after dinner / _____

Complete your personal description using information ③–⑫ on pp.8–9.

My name is ③ _____ . I am ④ _____ .
 I am an S1 student at ⑤ _____ . I live in ⑥ _____
 _____ with ⑦ _____ . We like
 to ⑧ _____ .

I have ⑨ _____ face and my hair is ⑨ _____ .
 I am ⑩ _____ and ⑩ _____ person. During
 my free time, I usually ⑪ _____ .

I am ⑫ _____ . My ⑫ _____ say that I am
 ⑫ _____ . I ⑫ (never / sometimes / always) _____
 _____ because ⑫ _____ .

