



Activity 1

Understanding what you read

Read *Greetings from Venice Beach, California* on page 9.

Shade one bubble.

1. Mayrah and Matt have just moved to

- Redfern, Sydney.
- Los Angeles, California.
- Las Vegas.
- New York.

2. Mayrah says that Los Angeles was overwhelming at first. By this, she means

- everything was very different to what she was used to.
- it was fun.
- she loved the Starbucks coffee.
- there were a lot of surfers there.

3. According to the text, what is one thing Matt does when he's not playing rugby?

- He cooks Sunday dinner for his new friends.
- He is a role model for the Inner City Education Foundation.
- He plays basketball.
- He goes rollerblading.

4. Travelling has certainly proved to us that we are fortunate to live in Australia.

This suggests that

- Mayrah and Matt are sick of living in America.
- they like living in Australia.
- their time in America has made them appreciate Australia even more.
- Mayrah and Matt like to keep in touch with friends.

5. What is the main purpose of this text?

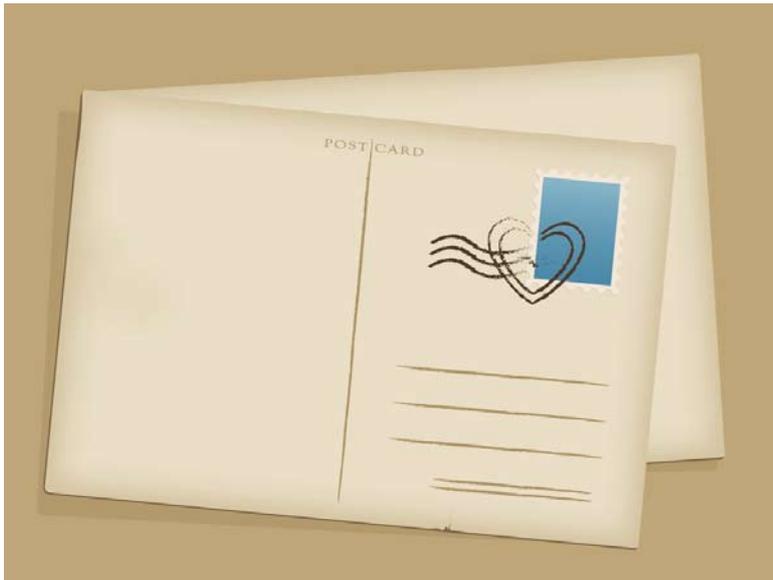
- to warn
- to argue
- to inform
- to criticise



Activity 4

Writing a postcard

Mayrah wrote about her experiences of living in Los Angeles, California.
Write a postcard to describe your favourite trip.



Activity 5

Writing a narrative

The common features of a narrative often include:

Beginning/Orientation: This sets the scene, creating a visual picture of the setting, atmosphere and time of the story. Characters are introduced and clues are set in place for the coming complication.

Problem/Complication: This is where a problem or complication occurs that affects the setting, time or characters.

Character's Reaction: Characters are developed through the ways they react to the problem.

Problem seems to be resolved/Minor Resolution: Everything seems to be resolved.

New Problem/Complication: The problem or complication is now often worse than before.

Problem is solved/Ending/Resolution: The problem is solved and the story ends.

Moral/Coda/Evaluative ending: There may be a moral or message at the end of the story.

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Write a narrative.

The idea for your story is FOUND.



Your story might be about finding a lost pet, hidden treasures or new friends.

It could be about finding the solution to a problem or finding an opportunity to do something different and exciting.

Your story could be about how people in difficult situations find courage, help or understanding.

Think about:

- The characters and where they are.
- The complication or problem to be solved.
- How the story will end.

Remember to:

- Plan your story before you start.
- Write in sentences.
- Pay attention to the words you choose, your spelling and punctuation.
- Check and edit your writing when you have finished.