

Free writing example

I left home at 8 oclock. I had to rush because the bus comes at 5 past 8 and I didnt want to miss it it was packed! The traffick was terrible it was after half past when I got off. then I had to walk to the centre whitch takes at least 20 minutes and its up a hill so my legs realy (ack) hurt when I got there. I was ready for a cup of coffee.

Commentary

At first glance you might think that this piece of writing contains a lot of errors. However, there is much more that is right than wrong.

- Nearly all common words are spelt correctly (left, home, bus, to, legs, was).
- There is good use of silent 'l' (half, walk).
- There are a number of correct sentences.
- Other words that aren't phonetic are correctly spelt (minutes, ready, centre).

Focus analysis

Text focus

- The piece is written in one paragraph but this is appropriate.
- More detail could have been included and this could have provided an opportunity to include more paragraphs.
- Information is arranged in a logical order.

Sentence focus

- There are a number of correct sentences.
- There are two instances when a new sentence should have been started.
- No punctuation other than full stops is used.
- Capital letters are not always used at the beginning of a sentence.
- There should be three apostrophes but none has been used.
- There are two main areas for development: sentences and apostrophes.

Word focus

- Nearly all common words are spelt correctly (left, home, bus, to, legs, was).
- There is good use of silent 'l' (half, walk).
- Other words that aren't phonetic (minutes, ready, centre) are spelt correctly.
- There are five words spelt incorrectly: packd, traffick, terrible, witch, realy. All of these, however, have been spelt phonetically, so this learner clearly has no difficulty with phonics.
- packd – it might be worth focusing specifically on the -ed suffix, giving other examples of how it is added to words so that the learner learns the rule.
- terrible – this should be learnt as an individual spelling but it could be extended to other forms using the same root, e.g. terror, terrify, terrifying, terrific.
- traffick, realy – these should just be dealt with as single spellings.
- witch – it is good that the learner has included the 'h'. It might be a good idea to look at the difference between which and witch, pointing out that -itch is the more common ending (as in pitch, bitch, ditch, hitch), but that there are other words where the same sound is spelt -ich (such as rich).