

7

Step 7 - Describing & Storytelling

Often one paragraph is not enough to say everything we want. There are two reasons for dividing our work into paragraphs. We can make our work more interesting by including more details, and make it easier to read. When we do this, we need to decide what to include in each paragraph. Below are some examples of how you can make one paragraph into four. Think about your readers!

Miki Suzuki

29 May 2011

My Introduction (1)

My name is Miki Suzuki. I come from Okinawa, a small island in the south of Japan. It is very different to Tokyo. I have two younger brothers; they live there with my parents. I am a university student and my major is English. I live in Machida in a small apartment. It is quite nice as it is next to a park. I really enjoy playing the electric guitar. Recently I joined a rock band at my university. Last week we did our first live concert. I was very nervous, but it was exciting. We are recording our own CD on my friend's computer. I work three evenings a week at McDonald's, and I am saving to go and homestay in Australia next year.

Make notes about the topics and try to make it more interesting.

Notes - My introduction - for my classmates

1 Okinawa family weather vacations school friends

2 University major English friends apartment living alone

3 Playing guitar started band live concert CD feeling

4 Home stay future saving money Australian friends

Miki Suzuki

29 May 2011

My Introduction (4)

My name is Miki Suzuki. I come from Okinawa, a small island in the south of Japan. It is so different from where I live now in Tokyo. The weather is much warmer as it is far south of the main islands. It has a lot of natural beauty, the beaches are white sand, and the sea is so clear and blue. Life is slow, and the people are friendly. My parents live there now with my two

younger brothers. I have some great friends that I met in high school, and we still keep in touch. I always look forward to seeing them in the vacation when I go back.

About a year ago I came to Tokyo to study English at the university. It was a bit of a shock at first, so busy with people rushing around everywhere. Studying is much harder than I thought, but I have made some good friends, and we study together. I live in a city called Machida, on the edge of Tokyo. My apartment is small but comfortable. I like it because it is next to a park. Living alone was tough at first, I missed my noisy brothers and my mother's cooking, but I am getting used to it now.

I love guitars and have been playing for a few years. A few months ago I joined a rock band at my university. It was the first time for me to play with other musicians, and it is great fun. I bought an electric guitar, and the sound is so exciting. I did not think I would be able to play it, but now I find it easier than the acoustic I was using before. We did our first live concert last week. I was so nervous at first, but once we started, I forgot all about that and just played. I think we did okay for a first performance; the audience was dancing and shouted for more when we finished. One of the band members has a computer that will record, so we are going to try to make a CD soon.

I would love to do a home stay in Australia in the next couple of years. Some of my classmates have done that, and their English is very good. I am working three evenings a week at a fast food shop and saving as much money as I can. I talked with my parents, and they think it is a good idea. I am really looking forward to traveling and learning about different cultures.

An Unforgettable Experience (1)

A few years ago, I had a very embarrassing experience. I went fishing near Tokyo. I met a nice guy by the lake and he asked me for dinner with his family the next weekend. The next Saturday, we had a great dinner. Later, I excused myself and went to the restroom. I thought I could hear rain outside, and opened the window to see. When I did this, something fell and broke the toilet. I felt so bad telling them what had happened. I will never forget it.

Notes - An Unforgettable Experience - for my classmates

1 Introduce - when where fishing invitation

2 Before the accident - visit dinner rain window

3 What happened - explain how my feeling thinking

4 After - my feeling explaining his reaction

An Unforgettable Experience (4)

A few years ago, I had a an extremely embarrassing experience. I was fishing at Sagami Lake with my girlfriend just outside Tokyo. We made friends with a guy called Paul, who was walking by the lake. We got along very well, and he invited us for dinner the next weekend at his home nearby.

The next Saturday evening, we went by motorbike to his house for dinner. We met his wife and sat down to a delicious meal. After the meal, I excused myself and went to the bathroom. While in there, I thought I could hear it raining outside. I slid the toilet window open to see if it was raining, but as I did so, a terrible thing happened.

There were some ornamental paperweights on the shelf. Unfortunately, as I opened the window, I knocked one of them off. It fell and hit the western style toilet. There was a small ping noise when the paperweight hit the toilet. Then, there was a bigger crashing thump, as the front of the toilet fell off and smashed on the floor. I could not believe my eyes! A large triangular lump had fallen out of the front of the toilet and was in pieces at my feet. There was absolutely nothing I could do. It was like a bad dream, and I was hoping to wake up. If I could only go back in time a few seconds, but no, of course, I could not. There I was, stuck with an awful reality.

I went downstairs feeling very guilty, shocked and embarrassed. I said I was sorry, and tried to explain to Paul what had happened. He said it was not a problem as he could fix it, but I knew he couldn't. He did not understand the seriousness of the damage I had done. When we went upstairs to see, Paul looked at the pieces of white ceramic scattered across the floor in disbelief. Scratching his head and trying hard to understand how this could possibly have happened, he agreed. The toilet was destroyed, well beyond repair. They didn't invite us to dinner again.

Notes - A Night Out - for my classmates

1 Introduce - when who with what why where

2 The movie - type of movie actors story

3 My thoughts about the movie - parts I liked how I felt

4 After the movie - where we went what we did

Miki Suzuki

21 July 2012

A Night at the Movies

Last Saturday night, I went to the movies with my girlfriend, Chikako. I really wanted to see the new Harry Potter movie, but she insisted on going to see Titanic. I think she has seen this movie four times already, but she still wanted to see it again. We went to a new cinema in Shibuya called Cinema Rose. It has very comfortable seats, a great sound system, and a super wide screen.

I'm not a very romantic person, so I thought I wouldn't like Titanic, but actually, I enjoyed it. It has lots of drama, action, adventure, as well as romance. Two great actors, Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, play the main characters, Jack and Rose. The story is about their love affair, and it is also about survival and courage. It has won 11 Academy Awards including Best Picture and Director.

It is a truly remarkable film. The special effects were so realistic, and when I was watching the ship going down, I felt like I was there. It was quite scary really. The soundtrack is also great. I think I will buy it as a present for Chikako. If you haven't seen this fantastic movie yet, I would highly recommend it.

When we left the cinema, we had dinner at a great new Italian restaurant near by. We talked a lot about different things, the movie, love, and our future dreams. We made another date to see a movie next Friday. This time we are going to see the Harry Potter!