

Lesson Eighteen

Composition

Aims

The aims of this lesson are to enable you to cover:

- some ideas on the “Art of Composition”
- various topics; e.g. Descriptive, Personal, Narrative
- how to prepare a Composition
- activities on the above Topics
- Model Compositions and Letters on various Topics
- Further Activities

Context

‘Composition’ is a broad general term that can be applied to a wide variety of writing activities. Different skills are required according to the kind of composition you are attempting and indeed the intended audience. At the end of the lesson, you will

tackle the next TMA.

The Art of Composition

When you are speaking to someone, without thinking you automatically speak in a way most suited to that person.

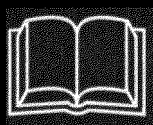


If you are speaking to someone older than yourself or you do not know very well, you will address him or her politely, it is quite probable speaking as well as you can, push if you like... To a child, or someone younger, you will speak in a more familiar way, keeping your language simple, and only talking about what you think that person will like, or be happy with.

The same applies to writing! You will adapt what you write to the person you

are writing for, and only present what you think they will understand or want. A basic piece of English such as a message will only have the important information you wish to give. A letter will be rather longer, and give news about what has happened to you, good wishes for the person you are writing to, and possibly some more general information. However, usually a letter will be written in a conversational way, as you are almost certainly writing it quickly, and not wanting to recopy it...

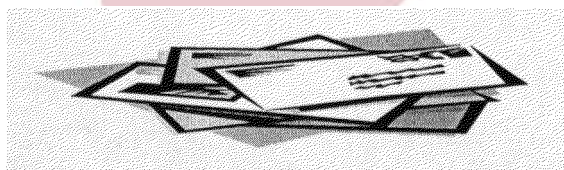
All these factors will affect directly the style of your English; you will have been given some idea of the different kinds of English there are from the Course so far.



If you are hoping after this Course, to enter the GCSE in English or some other similar Examination, an excellent book that gives you practice and guidance in every aspect of written English is the following:

GCSE English (A Complete Course) by Susan Davies
(Heinemann 1997 ISBN 0-435-10194-3)

a letter will be written in a conversational way...



The following hints about essays, composition, and letter writing, will be based partly on what Susan Davies sets down in her admirable textbook, details of which have just been given. First let us look at the different types of English you might be expected to write.

1) Personal Writing

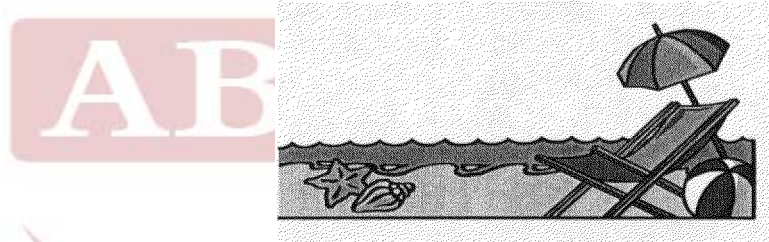
- a) Your own situation, home - background
- b) Description: a place, object, building, person you are interested in
- c) Informative writing; explaining something to one or many
- d) Persuasive writing: setting down a case you believe in

2) Letters

- a) a letter to a hotel asking to book a room, and for information of prices, facilities
- b) A letter to a hotel complaining about the recent holiday you have just had
- c) A request for an application form for a job, and a job description

- d) A business letter in answer to a client on a current contract
- e) A letter to a friend/relative thanking them for a delightful holiday by the seaside/in the country

by the seaside...



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