



CEM 11+ Preparation Series
English Booklet 20

Name:

Date started:

- Work neatly.
- Write in full sentences when you are given enough space.
- Check all spellings, especially when the word appears on the page.

For the writing task, your marks will be awarded for spelling, structure, demonstrating the aim, grammar and punctuation, general content and answering the task.

	Section A	Section B	Section C	Section D
WE639: Fact and Opinion	/5	/10	/10	/30
WE640: Synonyms and Antonyms	/5	/10	/10	/30

Fact and Opinion

Aim: To be able to identify fact and opinion in “A Day’s Tour”

A Day’s Tour: A Journey Through France and Belgium

Percy Fitzgerald

The author arrives in Dover on his way to France.

Dover has an old-fashioned dignity of its own; the town, harbour, ports, and people seem, as it were, consecrated to packets.* There is an antique and reverend grayness in its old inns, old streets, old houses, all clustered and huddled into the little sheltered amphitheatre, as if trying to get down close by their pride, the packets. For centuries it has been the threshold, the hall-door, of England. It is the last inn, as it were, from which we depart to see foreign lands. History, too, comes back on us: we think of 'expresses' in fast sloops or fishing-boats; of landings at Dover, and taking post for London in wartime; how kings have embarked, princesses disembarked—all in that awkward, yet snug harbour. A most curious element in this feeling is the faint French flavour reaching across — by day the white hills yonder, by night the glimmering lights on the opposite coast. The inns, too, have a nautical, seaport air, running along the beach, as they should do, and some of the older ones having a bulging stern-post look about their lower windows. Even the frowning, fortress-like coloured pile, the Lord Warden, thrusts its shoulders forward on the right, and advances well out into the sea, as if to be the first to attract the arrivals. There is a quaint relish, too, in the dingy, old-fashioned marine terrace of dirty tawny brick and its green verandas, which lend quite a tropical air. Behind them, in shelter, are little dark squares, of a darker stone, with glimpses of the sea and packets just at the corners. Indeed, at every point wherever there is a slit or crevice, a mast or some cordage is sure to show itself, reminding us how much we are of the packet, packety. Ports of this kind, with all their people and incidents, seem to be devised for travellers; with their flaring lights, up-all-night hotels, the railway winding through the narrow streets, the piers, the stormy waters, the packets lying by all the piers and filling every convenient space. The old Dover of Turner's well-known picture, or indeed of twenty years ago, with its 'dumpy' steamers, its little harbour, and rude appliances for travel, was a very different Dover from what it is now. There was then no rolling down in luxurious trains to an Admiralty Pier. The stoutest heart might

shrink, or at least feel dismally uncomfortable, as he found himself discharged from the station near midnight of a blowy, tempestuous night, and saw his effects shouldered by a porter, whom he was invited to follow down to the pier, where the funnel of the 'Horsetend' or Calais boat is moaning dismally. Few lights were twinkling in the winding old-fashioned streets; but the near vicinity of ocean was felt uncomfortably in harsh blasts and whistling sounds. The little old harbour, like that of some fishing-place, offered scarcely any room. The much-buffeted steamer lay bobbing and springing at its moorings, while a dingy oil-lamp marked the gangway. A comforting welcome awaited us from some old salt, who uttered the cheering announcement that it was 'agoin' to be a roughish night.'

* Consecrated: dedicated

* Packet: Old fashioned word for ship

* Sloop: small warship

Now answer the questions below.

Section A - Practice

1. How does the author describe Dover in the opening sentence?

2. What is the most important thing to the people of Dover?

3. What can be seen on the opposite coast?

4. What can be seen through every slit or crevice?

5. Who does the author think the port is designed for?

Section B - Thinking about it

1. In the second sentence, how does the author create a vivid description of the buildings in Dover? Use quotes to support your answer.

2. What do you think the author means when he describes Dover as a “threshold”?

3. How has Dover been important to the history of England?

4. Who or what do you think “Lord Warden” is? Why?

5. How is Dover shown in Turner’s painting? How has it changed?

6. Select two points from the passage that give the author’s opinion of Dover.

7. Can you find any facts about Dover?

8. This extract is from a non-fiction genre called “travel writing”. Explain what you think travel writing is.

9. Why do you think that travel writing is mainly the author’s opinion, combined with some facts?

10. Identify one example of writing about another country which contains mainly fact.

Section C - Fact or Opinion.

- In questions 1-5, states whether the comments about London are fact or opinion.
- For questions 6-9 write two facts and two opinions of your own about London.

1. The population of London is around 8.5 million people.

2. London’s theatres show some of the most innovative and professional plays in the world.

3. It rains too much in London.

4. More than half of the London Underground network actually runs above ground.

5. London was first established by the Romans, who would call it Londinium.

6. Fact:

7. Fact:

8. Opinion:

4. Opinion:

5. Ending:

Section D - Composition: Letter Writing

Now imagine that you have just arrived in London, write a letter to a friend, describing the city. Give your personal opinion, but also include some facts.

Things to Consider:

- Lay the text out like a letter, with your address on the right, your friend's on the left, with the date underneath.
- Begin your letter with Dear and end with an appropriate sign off.
- Include descriptions of what you can see - the buildings, people, weather, transport, roads. Use descriptive techniques such as similes and personification to make it interesting.
- Through your description give an opinion of whether you like or dislike the city.
- Appropriate facts dotted through your letter will make you seem knowledgeable.

Planning Box

Well done! Now go back and check your spelling and grammar. Read it through again to make sure each sentence makes sense.

Synonyms and Antonyms

Aim: To demonstrate an ability to understand and use synonyms and antonyms in writing.

Dracula Bram Stoker

Beyond the green swelling hills of the Mittel Land rose mighty slopes of forest up to the lofty steeps of the Carpathians themselves. Right and left of us they towered, with the afternoon sun falling full upon them and bringing out all the glorious colours of this beautiful range, deep blue and purple in the shadows of the peaks, green and brown where grass and rock mingled, and an endless perspective of jagged rock and pointed crags, till these were themselves lost in the distance, where the snowy peaks rose grandly. Here and there seemed mighty rifts in the mountains, through which, as the sun began to sink, we saw now and again the white gleam of falling water. One of my companions touched my arm as we swept round the base of a hill and opened up the lofty, snow-covered peak of a mountain, which seemed, as we wound on our serpentine way, to be right before us:—

“Look! Isten szek!”—“God’s seat!”—and he crossed himself reverently.

As we wound on our endless way, and the sun sank lower and lower behind us, the shadows of the evening began to creep round us. This was emphasised by the fact that the snowy mountain-top still held the sunset, and seemed to glow out with a delicate cool pink. Here and there we passed Czecks and Slovaks, all in picturesque attire, but I noticed that their goitre was painfully prevalent.

By the roadside were many crosses, and as we swept by, my companions all crossed themselves. Here and there was a peasant man or woman kneeling before a shrine, who did not even turn around as we approached, but seemed in the self-surrender of devotion to have neither eyes nor ears for the outer world. There were many things new to me: for instance, hay-ricks in the trees, and here and there very beautiful masses of weeping birch, their white stems shining like silver through the delicate green of the leaves. Now and again we passed a leiter-wagon—the ordinary peasant’s cart — with its long, snake-like vertebra, calculated to suit the inequalities of the road. On this were sure to be seated quite a group of home-coming peasants, the Czecks with their white, and the Slovaks with their coloured, sheepskins, the latter carrying lance-fashion their long staves, with axe at end.

As the evening fell it began to get very cold, and the growing twilight seemed to merge into one dark mistiness the gloom of the trees, oak, beech, and pine, though in the valleys which ran deep between the spurs of the hills, as we ascended through the Pass, the dark firs stood out here and there against the background of late-lying snow. Sometimes, as the road was cut through the pine woods that seemed in the darkness to be closing down upon us, great masses of greyness, which here and there bestrewed the trees, produced a peculiarly weird and solemn effect, which carried on the thoughts and grim fancies engendered earlier in the evening, when the falling sunset threw into strange relief the ghost-like clouds which amongst the Carpathians seem to wind ceaselessly through the valleys.

Sometimes the hills were so steep that, despite our driver's haste, the horses could only go slowly. I wished to get down and walk up them, as we do at home, but the driver would not hear of it. "No, no," he said; "you must not walk here; the dogs are too fierce"; and then he added, with what he evidently meant for grim pleasantry — for he looked round to catch the approving smile of the rest — "and you may have enough of such matters before you go to sleep." The only stop he would make was a moment's pause to light his lamps.

Now answer the questions on the next page.

Section A - Practice

1. What land are we in at the beginning of this story?

2. Which two types of people in 'picturesque attire' do they pass on their journey?

3. Which religious item do they see a lot of along the side of the road?

4. What animal are they using to pull their cart along?

5. Why does the driver warn them not to get down from the cart?



Section B - Thinking about it

1. What time of day is it when this description begins?

2. Give three adjectives that the author uses in the first sentence of this text.

3. Do you think the writer is impressed by what he can see and describe in the first paragraph? Explain your answer.

4. The writer uses the word 'lofty' often to describe his surroundings. What do you think the word 'lofty' means?

5. Suggest a synonym for the word 'lofty'.

6. When was the last time you went on a long journey? Give a short description of something you saw whilst on your journey.

7. What time of day is it in the penultimate paragraph of this description?

8. Give two ways in which the author’s description of the land changes as the time of day changes.

9. What adjective does the driver use to describe the dogs he warns of? Suggest a synonym for this word.

10. Suggest antonyms for each of these words used by the writer in the text.

Mighty

Lower

Section C - Synonyms and Antonyms

A synonym is a word that means exactly the same, or nearly the same, as another word in the same language. Good writers will try to think of synonyms for words when they’re describing something, rather than using the same words over and over again.

An antonym is a word that means the opposite to another word in the same language. Using antonyms can completely change the tone or meaning of what it is your describing.

For each question, locate and highlight the adjective in the sentence. Then rewrite the sentence, but replacing that adjective with an appropriate antonym of your choice.

1. André looked up at the tall mountains.

2. Alice ordered the most delicious soup from the waiter.

3. Karen tried to finish her homework, but it was just too difficult.

4. Heracles swung his sword and stared at his enemy. He was the mightiest warrior Heracles had ever seen.

5. My hand is so sore from all of this writing!

6. Jason picked up his jumper out of the mud. It was absolutely filthy.

7. The teacher threw her pen down and stared at the children. They had never seen her look so furious.

8. The elevator stopped and wouldn't move. It seemed like it was completely broken.

9. The caterpillar was sleeping in her cocoon, dreaming of being a beautiful butterfly one day.

10. Andrea stood up and tried to control her breathing. She felt she was going to do something violent.

Section D - Composition

In the text above, the narrator is describing his journey through Transylvania, to the castle of Count Dracula, who we later learn is a vampire. From the perspective of the same narrator as in the text, write a detailed description of the arrival at Count Dracula's castle.

You need to write at least one paragraph describing the castle in lots of detail, and another paragraph describing Count Dracula himself. Remember to use lots of adjectives, but to vary which adjectives you use by using synonyms. You can think as well about using antonyms in your story, and what effect using them has on your description.

Things to consider checklist:

- Remember to use the first-person perspective ('I' and 'We') because that is what's in the story!
- Think about how you want your reader to feel about the castle. What words are you going to use to make them feel that?
- Think about how you want your reader to feel about Count Dracula. What words are you going to use to make them feel that?
- Try and use as many synonyms as you can!
- Remember to use paragraphs to separate your ideas.

Planning Box

Well done! Now go back and check your spelling and grammar. Read it through again to make sure each sentence makes sense.