

Unit 3: A four-paragraph essay which includes a description of a person

Overview: In this unit, you will ...

- ◆ writing a 4-paragraph essay describing a person;
- ◆ using a variety of techniques to support your ideas, rather than just telling general information

Part 1. Work with a model essay and start your essay

3-1 Listening Model Essay

Purpose:

- In Exercise 1, you will read a sample first draft of an essay. This essay is not very interesting because it contains just some general information about someone.
- The model essay in Exercise 2 is an example of the type of a 4-paragraph essay that you will write in this unit. This essay is more interesting because it includes a variety of techniques to describe the person.
- In Exercise 2, you will first listen to the model essay and then fill in the blanks of a skeleton of the essay. This exercise will help you focus on the features of the essay. This exercise looks very easy, but it will help you do Exercise 4.
- In Exercise 4, you will paraphrase the essay. In other words, you will tell as much information from the essay as you can. This exercise will help you understand the features of the essay, and it will help you activate some vocabulary and phrases.

(Sample essay first draft: with general information)

Exercise 1: Read this first draft of “A Giant Teenager.”

A Giant Teenager (a story about a real person)

In this essay, I will describe my son, Daniel, who has problems because he is very tall. Daniel has physical problems because he is 7 feet 5 inches (223 cm) and weighs 330 pounds. He has problems with doorways, beds and bathrooms. He also has emotional problems because he is so tall. Everyone expects him to be good in basketball. People stare at him. Life can be difficult for a person who is 7 feet tall.

**Exercise 2**

¹⁾ Close your book and listen to your teacher read “A Giant Teenager,” (a story about a real person)

²⁾ After you listen to your teacher, open your books and choose the words from the box to complete the skeleton essay below.

Paragraphs 1-2

bend way over

physical problems

he has to duck his head

squeeze into a car

sewed two sheets

raised the showerhead

Because he is so tall

Life can be challenging

I will describe my son, Daniel,

Paragraphs 3-4

expects him to be great

has a strong character

hurt his feelings

criticize him

he was the teacher

some emotional problems

he gets tired of his size

people stare at him



Listening script is at the end of this attachment.

3-1 A Giant Teenager (a story about a real person)

¹ _____ for unique people. My son, Daniel, is 17 years old. He is 7 feet 5 inches tall (or about 2.23 meters), and he weighs about 330 pounds (or about 150 kilos). _____, his experiences some unusual pressures. In this essay, _____ and his unique life.

² First, Daniel has some _____. When he walks into a room, _____ under the doorway. It's often hard for him to _____. He even has problems with his bed. His bed is 8 feet long (or about 2 ½ meters long), so I _____ together. When he brushes his teeth, he has to _____ the sink. Therefore, we hired a plumber to raise the sink and mirror in the bathroom. We also _____.

³ He also has _____ . On his basketball team, everyone _____ , but he isn't. He averages only 7 points a game, so some people _____ . When we go to a mall and grocery store, _____ . Some people even take his picture. At school, students also stare at him. On his first day of class, Daniel entered the classroom. The other students thought that _____ . A few students stood next to him to compare their sizes. Those experiences sometimes _____ .

⁴ In conclusion, usually, Daniel _____ , and, in general, he enjoys his life. However, sometimes _____ . He wants to be a normal height, even for just one day.

Exercise 3. In the essay, "A Giant Teenager," above:

- 1) Underline the thesis statement.
- 2) Put an asterisk (*) at the beginning of the topic sentences in paragraphs 2 and 3.

Exercise 4

- 1) Read again the essay, "Giant Teenager," in Ex. 2.
- 2) Write the ideas from the essay again without looking at it. You can use your own style and words.
- 3) The key words in the box can help you remember the details of the story. You can use these words if you want

(This is not a memory exercise. Write as much as you can remember, but don't worry if you do not remember everything. The more you write, the more your teacher can help you with your writing skills.)

A Giant Teenager

A Giant Teenager (a story about a real person)

Key words to help you write

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| • unique people | • Daniel Gilchrist | • 17 years old | • 7 feet 5 inches (2.23 meters) |
| • 330 pounds (150 kilos) | • surprising problems | • physical problems | • duck |
| • squeeze | • 8 feet long (about 2 ½ meters) | • sewed two sheets | |
| • bend way over | • hired a plumber | • showerhead | • emotional problems |
| • basketball | • averages only 7 points | • criticize him | • stare at him |
| • take his picture | • On his first day of class | • teacher | • compare their sizes |
| • normal height | | | |

3-1 script

A Giant Teenager

Life can be challenging for unique people. My son, Daniel, is 17 years old. He is 7 feet 5 inches tall (or about 2.23 meters), and he weighs about 330 pounds (or about 150 kilos). Because he is so tall, he experiences some unusual pressures. In this essay, I will describe my son, Daniel, and his unique life.

First, Daniel has some physical problems. When he walks into a room, he has to duck his head under the doorway. It's often hard for him to squeeze into a car. He even has problems with his bed. His bed is 8 feet long (or about 2 ½ meters long), so I sewed two sheets together. When he brushes his teeth, he has to bend way over the sink. Therefore, we hired a plumber to raise the sink and mirror in the bathroom. We also raised the showerhead.

He also has some emotional problems. On his basketball team, everyone expects him to be great, but he isn't. He averages only 7 points a game, so some people criticize him. When we go to a mall and grocery store, people stare at him. Some people even take his picture. At school, students also stare at him. On his first day of class, Daniel entered the classroom. The other students thought that he was the teacher. A few students stood next to him to compare their sizes. Those experiences sometimes hurt his feelings.

In conclusion, usually, Daniel has a strong character, and, in general, he enjoys his life. However, sometimes he gets tired of his size. He wants to be a normal height, even for just one day.