

Autobiographies

Learning Objective

To understand the features of an autobiography.



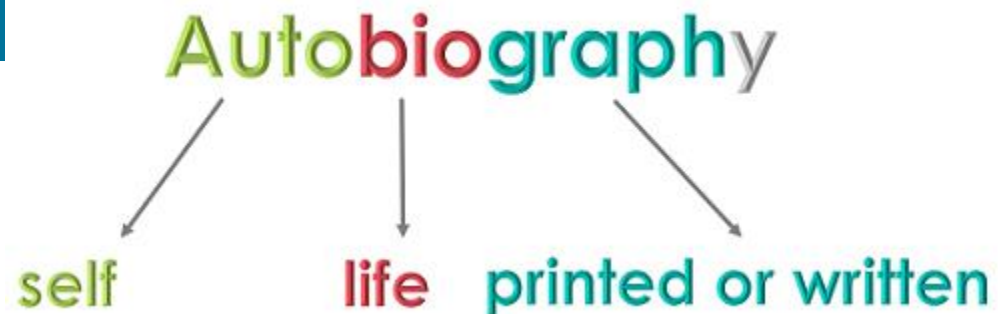
What Does the Prefix 'Auto' Mean?

Autobiographies

'Auto' means 'self' therefore an autobiography is self-written. It is an account of someone's life, written by the person themselves, in chronological order.

An autobiography is different to a biography because it is written in the first person.

The subject may write about what has influenced them and include details of their feelings during different experiences they have had.



Famous Faces Task

Is this biographical or autobiographical writing?
Match up the subject to the picture.



Anne Frank

I don't think I shall ever really feel at home in this house, but that does not mean that I loathe it here, it is more like being on vacation in a very peculiar boarding house... The Secret Annexe is an ideal hiding place. Although it leans to one side and is damp, you'd never find such a comfortable hiding place anywhere in Amsterdam, not even in the whole of Holland. Our little room perhaps looked bare at first with nothing on the walls; but thanks to Daddy who had brought my film star collection and postcards beforehand and with aid of paste, pot and brush, I have transformed the walls into one gigantic picture.



Jessica Ennis

I am crying. I am a Sheffield schoolgirl writing in her diary about the bullies awaiting me tomorrow. They stand menacingly by the gates and lurk unseen in my head, mocking my size and status. They make a small girl shrink, and I feel insecure and frightened.

I pour the feelings out into words on the page, as if exposing them in some way will help, but nobody sees my diary. It is kept in my room as a hidden tale of hurt. Fast forward two decades and I am crying again. I am standing in a cavernous arena in London. Suddenly, the pain and suffering and frustration give way to a flood of overwhelming emotion.

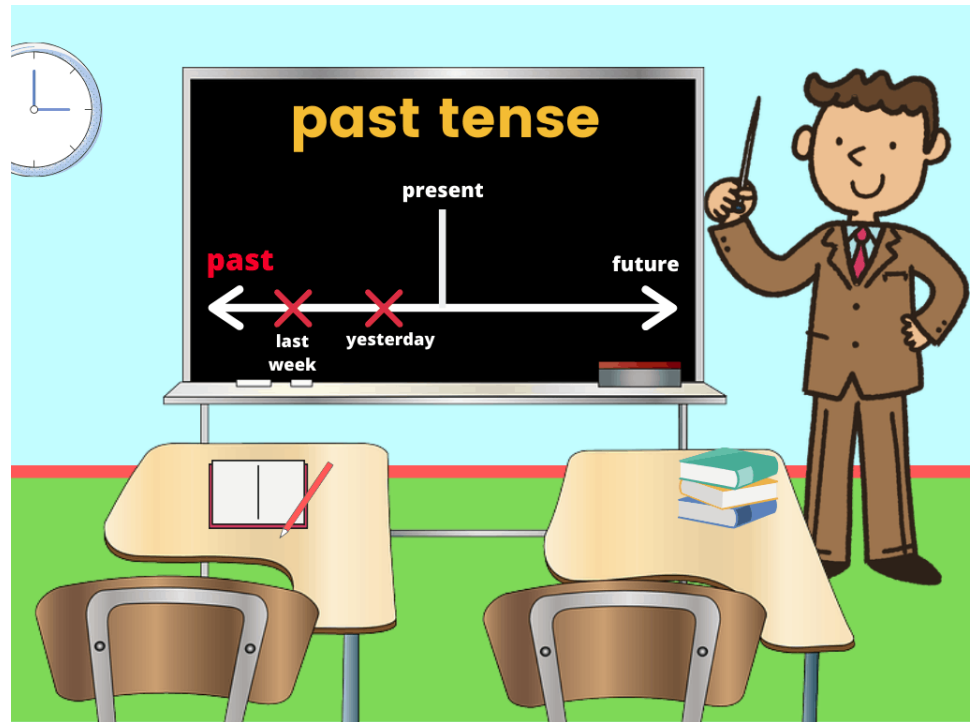
Features of an autobiography

Purpose:

To give an account of your life so far.

Tense:

Written in the past tense



Features of an autobiography

Structure:

1. Attention-grabbing introduction.
2. Chronological order.
3. Early memories, family, home and influences help to make sense of events which happen later.
4. Factual anecdotal writing - telling a story.
5. Includes relevant photos with captions for interest.
6. Closing statements include comments on your life now, reflections on some key events, hopes for the future.

What is meant by chronological order?

What is meant by factual anecdotal writing?

Features of an autobiography

Points to include:

1. positive and negative experiences and how they shaped your life
2. beliefs, values, feelings and opinions
3. precise dates and locations
4. named individuals who have influenced you
5. achievements and experiences



Features of an autobiography

Grammatical features:

- Adverbial phrases (Fronted adverbials):
- Time connectives: then, next, firstly, after
- Expanded noun phrases:

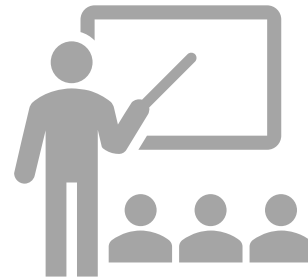
What is an adverbial?
What are time connectives?



Your task



You have 15 minutes to complete your autobiography features sheet



Pay close attention to the different features. You will find out why at the end of the lesson.



You will be given 5 questions to answer about features of an autobiography.

Quiz time

1. What does the prefix 'Auto' mean?
2. What tense is used in autobiographies?
3. What term is used when you write events in an order from oldest to most recent?
4. Name a grammatical feature in an autobiography.
5. Give an example of this grammatical feature.

Quiz time

1. What does the prefix 'Auto' mean? **Self**
2. What tense is used in autobiographies? **Past tense**
3. What term is used when you write events in an order from oldest to most recent? **Chronological order**
4. Name a grammatical feature in an autobiography. **Adverbial phrases, time connectives/ conjunctions, expanded noun phrases**
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Autobiographies

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Autobiographical Activity

Using the Features of an autobiography sheet, can you identify as many features evident in the modelled example?

Go through the text, highlighting different features of an autobiography that we have discussed so far.

Autobiographical Activity example

One of our favourite occupations was coming up with new ways to trick our neighbours into giving us money for sweets. Inspired by the fetes at our primary school, we would dress a doll in all of the dolls' clothes imaginable, and take her from door to door asking "How many layers is our doll wearing?" We were indulged by our neighbours, because we were pretty children, and it was a more trusting era in the 90s.

One time when I was about six years old, my sister Suzanne and I decided to pedal our wares in our drive way. We gathered soup cans and packets of pasta and, of course, several bottles of our homemade potion- composed mainly of talcum powder and bubble bath. We stretched out on the hot tarmac and every time a neighbour went past we would shout, "Money for the poor! Money for the poor!" Several neighbours smiled and gave us 10p or 20p coins, never taking any of our products. Despite our very persuasive selling techniques.

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Adverbial phrase

First person

Time connective

Past tense

Named individual

Early memories

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For Wednesday's lesson.

Find any photographs you have of yourself from when you were younger.

Have you got any photographs from important events, such as a wedding or a family day out?