

Creative Use of English

Telling

Directly give information with limited room for imagination

I was excited about the news.

Showing

Paint a picture in readers' mind

When I heard the news, my heart started pounding. I couldn't help letting out a scream.

How?

In the **Showing** example, the emotion of being "excited" is depicted with actions. The ways the heart beat and "I" laughed are vividly described to allow the reader **to imagine** or even **to experience** what the character feels.

To show feelings:

Describe characters' **actions** in that emotion.

Your turn!

Rewrite the following sentence to show feelings with actions:

The girl was scared.

Step 1: List **actions** when someone was **scared**.

E.g. body felt numb/legs turned to jelly

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Step 2: Write sentences based on what you have brainstormed in Step 1.

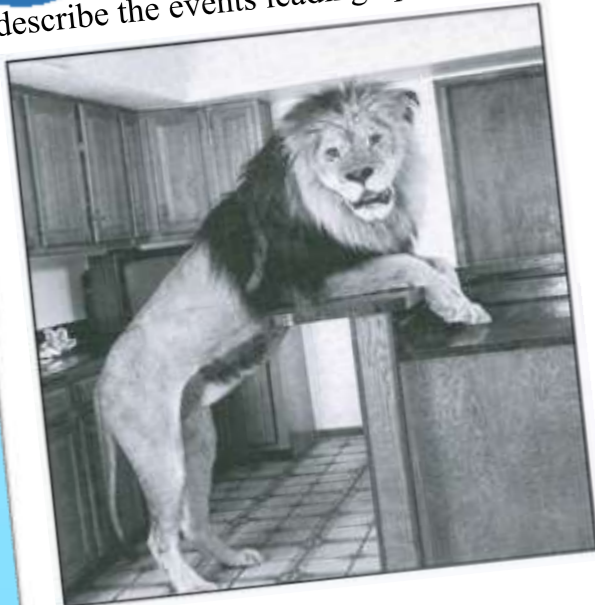
E.g. The girl's body felt numb. Her legs turned to jelly.

- 1.
- 2.

Showing Not Telling

Topic

You are entering a short story competition on the topic of 'Wildlife'. Your story should describe the events leading up to the image below.



Write your story.

Writing topic taken from Paper 2 of the 2017 HKDSE English Language Examination ©HKEAA

Rewrite the underlined parts to show feelings with **actions**:

I heard some noise from the kitchen so I (e.g.) went over nervously. When I walked into the kitchen, I saw (a) a hungry and angry lion. (b) I was shocked and frightened. The lion heard me and turned around. It crawled towards me with its tail held high. (c) I was afraid until it lay in front of me, purring like my pet cat. Seeing its gentle gesture, (d) I felt rather relieved. All of a sudden, the lion (e) said sadly, "I'm starving."

I heard some noise from the kitchen so I (e.g.) gulped and tiptoed over to the kitchen with butterflies in my stomach.