

English: Week beginning 22nd June (two week project)

Write and perform a commentary!

Andrew Cotter, who is a professional commentator, has been really bored during lockdown as there's not a lot of sport going on lately. While he's off work, he's been adding commentaries to videos of his dogs. They're so clever! You can watch one of them here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2BZNowCXws>

I thought it'd be fun if we wrote some silly lockdown commentaries of our own this week. It's not a type of writing that we get to produce very often but it's really fun and what better time to do it than the week after the Ashton Sock Olympics was unveiled! If you haven't seen it yet, you can find the info on our school website <http://www.ashtonhayes.cheshire.sch.uk/page/the-ashton-hayes-sock-olympics/75541>

The idea is that you film your family members competing in one of the Sock Olympic Events, watch the video back and come up with a written commentary of it!



Task One: Read the example commentary below that I have written and answer the questions

Here we are at the final of the sock jump championships in the living room of the Smith family. Mum and Dad are competing head to head. The atmosphere is tense as they await the start of the event. They won't be competing for a trophy tonight or even for a medal. They'll be competing simply for the glory and a cup of tea.

The event is about to begin. With dad being the eldest, he gets to go first. With the highest score in the semi-finals, he's quietly confident as he takes his place to the left of his balled up socks. He's wearing a striking bright yellow pair of socks. It could be a sneaky attempt to blind the judges and fiddle the score. The timer is set to one minute and he's off! He starts at a good pace. He's staring straight ahead. He's very focused. He's got a good height in his jumps but this could cost him later if he wastes too much energy! His minute is coming to an end now and he's quite out of breath. Ten seconds left on the timer. Can he squeeze in a few more jumps? There's the timer. That's 82 jumps for Dad. That's strong effort. He's looking pretty pleased with himself.

Mum is looking pretty worried as she steps up to the socks to take her turn. She's chosen to wear thick hiking socks, possibly for extra bounce. The countdown begins and she's off. Her starting pace is a little slower than Dad's but if she can keep it going, it may work in her favour. She's making very small, controlled movements so that she doesn't waste energy. It's a smart tactic. She has less than half of her time left now but Mum is calm and focused, still keeping up her original pace. This is incredible. It's looking like she might beat Dad at this point. He's looking worried. He thought he had it in the bag. 5 seconds left on the timer and she's done it! 83 jumps and counting. The timer has gone off and mum finishes the event with a fantastic 89 jumps, just beating dad to the glory and that cup of tea! Dad can't believe it. He's absolutely devastated. Perhaps he'll have more luck with the sock keepy uppies.

Questions

1. What tense is a commentary written (or usually spoken) in? Why?
2. What effect do the short sentences have? Do you think they're used for the most dramatic or least the dramatic parts?
3. Commentaries have lots of contractions (shortened words) as commentators speak so quickly. Can you find 3 examples?
4. Can you find an example of a rhetorical question in the text?
5. Like news reports, commentaries will usually include the 5Ws, just like news reports, except for when as the commentary is often live. What are the 4Ws for this commentary and which paragraph can they be found in?

Task 2: Choose an event from <http://www.ashtonhayes.cheshire.sch.uk/page/the-ashton-hayes-sock-olympics/75541> and challenge two members of your household to compete. Film the competition so that you can watch the video as many times as you need to help you with your writing! If you want to write a commentary of something different (your pets doing something or your brother doing the washing up) you can absolutely choose to do this! For those feeling less confident about the writing part though, do the Sock Olympics so that you can use the example to help you ☺

Task 3: Write your opening paragraph. Remember to write in present tense as if it's happening now and try to include the following:

- What is the event?
- Where is the event?
- Who is taking part?
- What are they competing for? What's the prize?
- What is the atmosphere like before the start of the event?

Task 4 (This might take a few days): Write the rest of your commentary, using the video to help you. Remember:

- Write in present tense as if it's happening now
- Use short sentences and contractions, especially for the most dramatic or tense parts
- Comment on small details like their choice of socks, their pace and their technique.

I would recommend writing a paragraph per person like the example but you don't have to do it like this. Be creative and have fun with it! I had so much fun writing mine and I hope you guys do too!

Task 5: Edit your writing. You can do this with an adult and they can help you to spot any little mistakes!

Task 6: Commentaries are designed to be spoken not written so have a go at performing your commentary. You could:

- Record your voice, over the video you took, in an App like iMovie
- Create a separate voice recording
- Perform your commentary to someone in your household

You might need to practise before you record as commentators talk so fast!