

Factual recount

Social purpose

Factual recounts tell us ‘what happened’ by documenting a series of events and evaluating their significance. They might be historical recounts, autobiographical or biographical recounts. Factual recounts may also be used to record events and observations from field trips and excursions.

Structure

- Orientation – sets a context for understanding the events that follow; provides background information about who, where, when, etc.
- Record of events – recounted in chronological order
- Reorientation – ‘rounds off’ the sequence of events usually by resetting events in time.

Key grammatical features

- Use of particular nouns (or pronouns) to name people, places and things
- Use of general human and non-human nouns in historical recounts, where the focus is on generalising about events and the actions of groups of people
- Use of action verbs (past tense) to refer to the events
- References to ‘time’ in theme position – expressed by conjunctions, time connectives, time adverbials or dependent clauses
- Lexical cohesion showing use of repetition, synonyms, collocation
- Uses the resources of Judgement and Appreciation to evaluate behaviours and events.

Text A.6: Factual recount

Federation

Orientation

More than one hundred years after Captain James Cook and many other explorers landed on the soil of Australia, there was Federation.

Record of events

Before Federation people disagreed and agreed about becoming a nation. From 1850 to 1891, Sir Henry Parkes debated for federation in his newspaper, *The Empire*. In 1891 the first Australian convention happened and many people supported the idea, such as Edmund Barton. On the first of January, 1901, the British Government finally allowed all six states to join to become one nation.

Reorientation

Federation is a very important historical event for Australia because it meant that all the states were united.

Kaiwen (Age 10)