MASTER THE ART OF WRITING

ENGLISH

COMPOSITIONS

- ★ Introduction on mind-mapping
- ★ Vocabulary list in each composition
- ★ Real-life situation compositions

PRIMARY 6

FAIRFIELD BOOK PUBLISHERS

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Master the Art of Writing
Primary 6 English Compositions

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PREFACE

The compositions in this book are designed to stimulate creative thinking. Writing a good composition requires skills such as planning and also requires the use of appropriate vocabulary.

This book has an introduction on mind-mapping and each composition has a list of noteworthy vocabulary. You are encouraged to draw a mind map before proceeding with your composition writing as mind-mapping instils creativity.

There are many pieces that are real-life situations. In addition to actively reading story books, you should be aware of events happening in your daily life as well as incidents happening around you, as these events make good stories.

The model compositions are written to aid students in formulating their ideas. You are encouraged to write your own compositions before reading the model essay.

Continue reading and writing. Your perseverance will pay off!

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Introduction to Mind-mapping in Creative Writing

Mind-mapping is very useful for note-taking and aids in developing ideas. It also helps you to be imaginative and creative when writing compositions. It allows you to arrange your ideas in a purposeful and logical manner. In this way, you can construct a well-structured and original piece of composition.

Steps to constructing a mind map for a story:

1. Write down the main theme of the story in the middle of a piece of paper that is placed horizontally on the table.
2. Using different colours, draw four or more main branches from the central theme. On top of these branches, write down the characteristics/themes that you wish to explore in your story.
3. Extend secondary branches from the primary branches to develop the plot of your story. Remember to write the points on top of the branches.
4. Continue to extend branches at points where you wish to elaborate on your story. Stop only when you have exhausted all your ideas.
5. You can now look at your mind map and write your composition.

Mind-mapping helps you to visualise the events in your story and enables you to plan the plot of your story thoroughly before you start writing. Planning is essential for composition writing as it enables your story to flow and develop smoothly. With practice, you will only need five minutes to construct a mind map before you start writing. Use this method for all compositions that you write.

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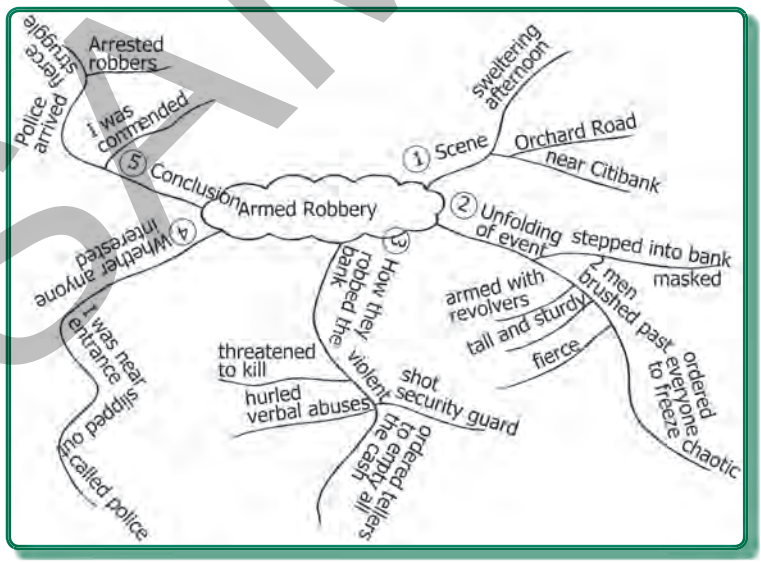
1 An Armed Robbery

You were at a major bank when you witnessed an armed robbery taking place there.

Write a composition of at least 150 words based on the above situation. You may make use of the following points:

- What happened before the robbery took place
- How the robbers looked like
- How they robbed the bank
- Whether anyone intervened
- What happened in the end

Before you begin, construct a mind map to help you plan your story.



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Model Composition

It was a swelteringly hot afternoon. Orchard Road was filled with **zealous** shoppers who were rushing for the mid-year sale. I was making my way to Citibank with a briefcase of the month's takings from my company.

Soon, the Citibank building loomed ahead of me. I quickened my pace and was about to enter the bank when two masked men brushed past me **brusquely**, almost knocking me over. I was about to **reprimand** them when the tall and **sturdy** pair **thundered**, " Freeze, everyone! Otherwise, we'll kill you!"

The situation became **chaotic** as the armed robbers pointed their revolvers at the terrified bank tellers. "Empty all the cash into this bag now!" one of them roared at the **jittery** bank tellers. The tellers clumsily followed his orders and emptied all the cash into the gigantic haversack. The security guard attempted to take out his revolver but the alert robber noticed his **surreptitious** action. He immediately shot the security guard in his chest. Everyone screamed hysterically at the sudden shot. The security guard collapsed in a pool of blood.

I was still **huddled** near the entrance of the bank clutching my briefcase tightly. I realised I had to escape to get help. I was the only hope for the bank and the hostages. As the robbers were busy hurling abuses and threats at the bank employees and clients, I managed to creep out of the bank unnoticed. As soon as I was a safe distance away, I called the police on my mobile phone.

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Within minutes, the police sirens wailed down the street. The policemen hopped off their vehicles dressed in bullet-proof vests and armed with powerful revolvers. They **charged** into the bank and a fierce struggle **ensued** between the law enforcers and the **perpetrators**. Eventually, good triumphed over evil and the **hardened** criminals were arrested. The money was also recovered. I was glad to see the thugs arrested. The police commended me for my help. From then on, I resolved to help the police in any way possible.



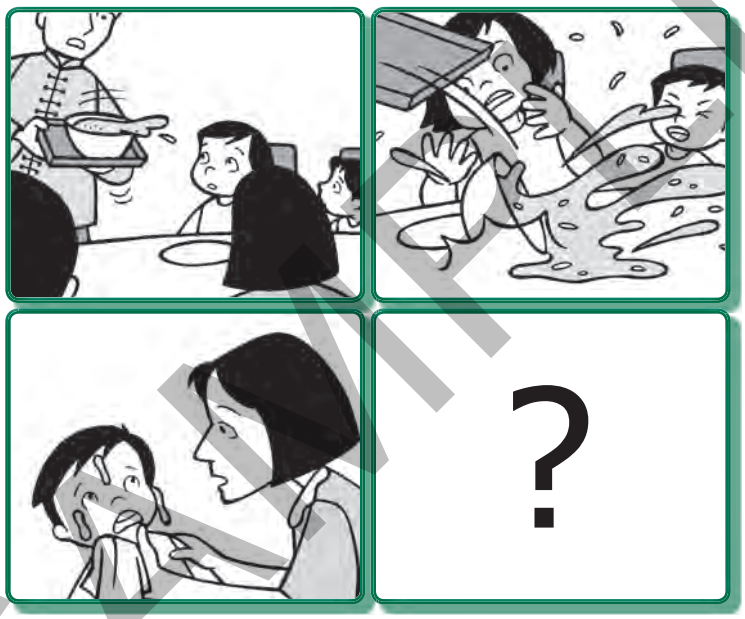
Noteworthy Vocabulary

1. **zealous** – eager; enthusiastic
2. **brusquely** – rudely
3. **reprimand** – tell off; scold
4. **sturdy** – strongly built
5. **thundered** – uttered loudly; spoke loudly
6. **chaotic** – confused; disorderly
7. **jittery** – nervous
8. **surreptitious** – secret
9. **huddled** – crouched
10. **charged** – rushed in
11. **ensued** – happened as a result
12. **perpetrators** – robbers; those who commit a crime
13. **hardened** – tough

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10 A Clumsy Waiter

Look at the pictures carefully and write a composition of at least 150 words. You may make use of the following points:



- What the family was doing at the restaurant
- The behaviour of the waiter
- How the incident happened
- How the family members felt and responded
- What happened in the end

Before you begin, construct a mind map to help you plan your story.

SAMPLE

Model Composition

It was the eve of Chinese New Year. My family and I drove to our favourite Chinese restaurant, Dragon Chinese Restaurant, to have our reunion dinner. We rejoiced in being able to enjoy a **hearty meal** at one of the most popular Chinese restaurants in town.

The restaurant was crowded with many diners who were also there to tuck into a sumptuous reunion dinner. The festive mood was **prevalent** in the restaurant and this made us even more thrilled. Upon arrival, we were **ushered** to a cosy corner by a **flustered** waiter who appeared to be serving several orders simultaneously.

As soon as we were seated, the waiter whipped out his note-pad, ready to take our orders. After a brief consultation with Mother, Father ordered mouthwatering dishes such as braised abalone, Peking duck, sharks' fin soup and drunken prawns. The waiter hurriedly scribbled down our orders before scurrying to the kitchen to place them. We then settled down and started conversing about our plans for the next two days.

Our first dish of sharks' fin soup soon arrived. I stared somewhat apprehensively as the disgruntled waiter weaved his way in between the tables, carrying a huge bowl of piping hot sharks' fin soup. My heart skipped a beat when I saw the bowl sliding **precariously** on the waiter's tray as he made his way to our table. We were utterly relieved when he finally reached our table without any mishap. However, the waiter stumbled and the bowl of soup flew off the tray. We gasped and attempted to duck. The bowl of soup landed with a crash on our table, spilling its contents all over it. A few drops of the boiling soup also splashed onto my little brother, Keith, who began **bawling**. Mother frantically wiped away the soup from Keith's arms with her napkin while pacifying him.

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Meanwhile, the clumsy waiter stood sheepishly and muttered a quick apology. However, the din did not escape the notice of the sharp-eyed manager. He hurried over to our table and extended his sincere apologies for the unfortunate incident. Not wishing to **mar** an auspicious occasion, Father accepted the manager's apologies graciously. That night, we enjoyed a **complimentary** dinner at the VIP's room upon the insistence of the manager. The incident turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It was the most unforgettable reunion dinner we had ever had!



Noteworthy Vocabulary

1. **hearty meal** – a large and very satisfying meal
2. **prevalent** – widespread; prevailing
3. **ushered** – showed or accompanied someone to where they should go
4. **flustered** – confused; agitated
5. **precariously** – unsteadily
6. **bawling** – shouting in a very loud voice
7. **mar** – spoil or damage
8. **complimentary** – given free as an act of courtesy

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