

## Key Features

### Informal Writing in Non-Fiction

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Example</i>	*
<b>Colloquial</b> , non-Standard English vocabulary	mates <i>rather than</i> acquaintances grabbed the spuds <i>rather than</i> collected the potatoes	
<b>Looks and sounds</b> very much <b>like spoken English</b>	Making a paper plane? The best way to use a piece of A4 – ever!	
<b>Rhetorical questions</b> and asides	So, what's new in the world of sport?  The weather forecast was good (yeah, right!).	
Contains <b>contractions</b> and <b>abbreviations</b>	should've <i>rather than</i> should have telly <i>rather than</i> television wanna <i>rather than</i> want to	
May use <b>onomatopoeic</b> words	Whoosh, zingy, kaboom!	
Makes use of clichés, idiomatic expressions and other <b>figures of speech</b>	You could have knocked the boffins down with a feather <i>rather than</i> Scientists were extremely surprised by the results	
<b>Short sentences</b> , sometimes incomplete and using <b>parenthesis</b> , dashes or dots	Mind you, you never know... So - let's check out what's new. Football (boring!)	
Frequently written in the <b>first person</b> form and making use of <b>second person pronouns</b>	I'm going to tell you why you and your friends will love it <i>rather than</i> It is anticipated that many people will be delighted.	
Often uses the <b>active</b> voice	You then join the pieces of wood together <i>instead of</i> The pieces of wood are then joined together.	

## Scenarios and Situations



*Should Mr Uncertain choose informal or formal writing?*

A letter of apology written to an elderly neighbour following an accident in which Mr Uncertain's barbeque set fire to the fence between their gardens.

A postcard written on holiday to a friend.

A personal diary entry, detailing what he has been up to in the last week.

A report written for his boss.

An email to a cousin he knows well on their birthday.

A letter requesting a new passport to go on holiday.

A job application.

An email to the council protesting at the state of the park.

A short article explaining the merits of cricket for a children's sports website.

An annual review of the local children's cricket club, drawn up for the Council as they consider funding for the next year.

# ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

This is the Star Wars story you were looking for but may not have even known it. Ever wondered why the Death Star had a design flaw that the Rebel Alliance could even think about exploiting? Rogue One answers your question. While there have been loads and loads of rumours about the characters and events in this stand-alone 'bridge' between Episode III and Episode IV, the reality is that this story is very much in keeping with that you'd expect from that precarious moment when the Empire was basically at its most powerful.

Felicity Jones and Diego Luna are wonderful as Jyn and Cassian. They have 'complicated pasts' (I know, that could be a yawn, but here it works). In some ways, they're the dead opposite of Princess Leia and Han Solo, with Jyn the roguish heroine with a dodgy reputation and Cassian the tried-and-true Rebel with a Cause. Their banter isn't quite as funny as Leia and Han's, but for that you've got K-2SO, who drily states the probability of success in any given situation—or why he thinks buddying up with Jyn is a bad idea.

The supporting characters in Rogue One are a refreshingly diverse bunch, with Chinese martial artists Donnie Yen and Wen Jiang playing blind warrior monk Chirrut Imwe and his assassin bestie, Baze Malbus. They're a fierce but comedic pair of old friends who have each other's backs. The Night Of breakout star Riz Ahmed plays an Imperial pilot who wants to help the Rebellion, and veteran actors Ben Mendelsohn, Mads Mikkelsen and Forest Whitaker have pivotal roles on both sides of Dark and Light. The odds are against this bunch of revolutionaries from the start, and the movie's epic battle sequences are the most violent of any Star Wars instalment, kind of making you think of the final Hunger Games films at times. The violence may be too much (and the Shakespearean-level of deaths too sad) for the youngest moviegoers, but otherwise this is a top-notch piece of Star Wars lore.

<https://www.common sense media.org/movie-reviews/rogue-one-a-star-wars-story>

Day 1



# Shrek 2

Right—what to say? All you really need to know is that Shrek's second groovy adventure is pure enjoyment, with stunningly brilliant technology and hilarious performances. And it has a script that is chock-a-block with wit, wisdom, heart, and so-funny-you'll-have-to-see-it-twice comedy. There's nonstop humour ranging from subtle and sophisticated satire to totally un-subtle slapstick. Oh, and potty jokes! Shrek 2 manages to make fun of just about everything, including its fairy tale sources, and yet actually be so in touch with the true themes of fairy tales that it is genuinely moving.

The animation technology is ace. The surfaces and textures are eye-poppingly vivid—kind of more real than real, if you know what I mean? The movie has breathtakingly beautiful backgrounds, exquisite detail, and characters so magnificently yet subtly expressive you wouldn't be too surprised to see them being interviewed by Jonathon Ross on his chat show. The voice talent on display is spectacular and perfectly integrated with the expressions and gestures of the animated characters. It's going to be hard to think of the dashing and brilliantly funny Antonio Banderas as anything but Puss-in-Boots from now on. There is loads to look at, but there is even more to FEEL, with characters so tender and charming that you'll cheer for a happily-ever-after-ending—and then cheer even louder at the announcement of Shrek the Third!

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/movie-reviews/shrek-2#>

Day 1



Photo by JGA



## War Horse

Ok, so *War Horse* is way too long (nearly two and a half hours) and sentimental...but that's fine! The story demands emotional depth, especially in the second and third acts, when it's Joey the audience is following, not Albert. Between the gorgeous cinematography (all those lush landscapes and claustrophobic trenches) and the expert editing, the film doesn't drag.

*War Horse* combines two of Spielberg's favourite themes as a director—family and war. The stand-out performances deserve credit for making the movie's 146 minutes worth your while. The cast is a virtual who's-who of rising English talent – up-and-comer Jeremy Irvine (making his feature debut), the always terrific Benedict Cumberbatch, and *Thor* breakout star Tom Hiddleston as the earnest Captain who buys Joey—along with veteran supporting actors led by Emily Watson, who shines as Albert's wise, hardworking mother, and who always knows what to say. As epic dramas go, this one is more heart than heft, but it's a beautiful portrayal of the extraordinary friendship –and circumstances –surrounding a boy and his horse.

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/movie-reviews/war-horse>

## Red Fang Discovery



If you're scared of spiders, then you wouldn't want to meet this hairy creature in a dark place! Researchers have discovered a new species of spider living in caves in Mexico. They noticed its unusually large size and two terrifying red fangs—ewwwwww! The spider was first spotted back in 2013 but it's taken four years for scientists to officially confirm it as a new species.

It's called the "Sierra Cacachilas Wandering Spider" and is in the same family as the much-feared, venomous Brazilian wandering spider.

Get this – the spider can grow up to 10cm in length. Remind me not to go to a cave in Mexico any time soon: you couldn't drag me there!

*There are five contractions. List them all.*

## Skills Builder: Apostrophes in Contractions

1. Write out each pair of words, with a contraction.

*E.g. she'll*

she	will
You	had
must	not
I	would

does	not
I	have
can	not

2. Write out each word, adding the contractive apostrophe in the correct place.

wouldve	dont	hell
itll	shouldnt	theyre
weve	youre	Ill
theyd	couldnt	mustve

3. Is the apostrophe in the right place in these words? Write the words with their apostrophes, correcting those that need it.

could'nt	we'll	you're
the'yd	that'l	you'dv'e
mustn't	its'	jack o' lantern
o'clock	we'd've	you'll
sh'ed	Hallowe'en	did'nt

#### 4. Write out the short passage below.

- The underlined words need to be rewritten as contractions in the space provided.
- There are also 5 errors in contractions for you to spot:
  - in 3 the apostrophe has been missed out altogether,
  - in 2 the apostrophe has been put in the wrong place.
- Correct all these as you write each sentence.

*“She’ll never make it,” thought Jonathon as he watched his sister Katie come down the zip wire. “You are going too fast!” he screamed, as his sister’s legs cartwheeled above the ground.*

*“Hold on, sis – do not let go!” Jonathon would not have minded so much, but he knew if his sister fell, hed be the one who got the blame. Katie reached the end of the run and, with a loud cry, flew through the air toward the grass bank. What shouldv’e been a quiet morning in the park was turning into a nightmare, thought Jonathon. Whatll I do if sh’es hurt? “It is ACE!” came Katie’s voice from behind the grass bank. “Im doing it again!”*



## What is that?



Who *would have* believed it possible? This little fellow is a baby lump sucker! Lump suckers get their names because *they are* nearly round in shape and so look a bit like lumps. Turn it upside down and *you will* see that *he has* got a sticky disc on his belly allowing him to stick to rocks. I *would not* recommend letting a lumpfish get too settled on your fingertips: *they are* difficult to shift!

*Six pairs of words are written in italics.*

*Write them out as contractions.*

## About Me Profile Planner

*A greeting or welcome*

*Vital statistics: your age, who you live with and where*

*Your interests, hobbies and passions*

*Any achievements you might have had*

*Future plans, hopes and ambitions*

*A sign-off or farewell*

## ***Scenarios and Situations - ANSWERS***



### ***Should Mr Uncertain choose informal or formal writing?***

A letter of apology written to an elderly neighbour following an accident in which Mr Uncertain's barbecue set fire to the fence between their gardens.

Could be either **FORMAL** (respectful and serious) or **INFORMAL** (friendly and genuine).

A postcard written on holiday to a friend.

**INFORMAL**

A personal diary entry, detailing what he has been up to in the last week.

**INFORMAL**

A report written for his boss.

**FORMAL**

An email to a cousin he knows well on their birthday.

**INFORMAL**

A letter requesting a new passport to go on holiday.

**FORMAL**

A job application.

**FORMAL**

An email to the council protesting at the state of the park.

**FORMAL**

A short article explaining the merits of cricket for a children's sports website.

**INFORMAL**

An annual review of the local children's cricket club, drawn up for the Council as they consider funding for the next year.

**FORMAL**

## *What is that? - ANSWERS*



*Who'd've* believed it possible? This little fellow is a baby lump sucker! Lump suckers get their names because *they're* nearly round in shape and so look a bit like lumps. Turn it upside down and *you'll* see that *he's* got a sticky disc on his belly allowing him to stick to rocks. I *wouldn't* recommend letting a lumpfish get too settled on your fingertips: *they're* difficult to shift!