

Learn how to write a post on a class forum.

Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and tips and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–f) with the vocabulary (1–6).

Vocabulary

1. to plot
2. to blow up
3. an explosive
4. a bonfire
5. to torture
6. a tradition

Definition

- a. something that people have done for many years
- b. a big fire that people build outside
- c. to destroy something in an explosion
- d. a substance that explodes if it catches fire
- e. to make a secret plan with other people to do something bad or illegal
- f. to cause great pain to someone, normally to get them to share information, to punish them or to be cruel

Reading text: A class forum

Add your comment below:

So cool to read about everyone's home tradition they miss the most! I'm from England but I've been living in the States for five years and the thing I miss the most is Bonfire Night on November 5th.

The best thing about Bonfire Night is the fireworks, oh, and the bonfires! ... and the history behind it. Basically, Guy Fawkes and his friends tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament and kill King James I. They nearly did it too – they hired a room under the Houses of Parliament and filled it with explosives. But someone told the royal palace. The authorities found Guy Fawkes in the room guarding the explosives, and he was sentenced to torture and death.

So it's a tradition that celebrates the fact that the king survived. It also means people don't forget what happens if you plot against your country. There's a kind of poem about it that starts 'Remember, remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot.' That's why we build a 'guy' – a life-size model of Guy Fawkes – and burn it on the bonfire. Pretty dark and horrible when you think about it!

.....

Tips

1. It's nice to start by saying something that shows you have read other people's posts.
2. In a class forum you can be quite informal.
3. In informal writing you can sometimes miss out the beginning of a phrase:
So cool to read about everyone's home tradition ...
4. Remember, in a forum you are part of a long conversation with a lot of other people so they might ask you questions.

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. The writer is American.	True	False
2. Bonfire Night is celebrated in autumn in the UK.	True	False
3. Guy Fawkes wanted to blow up the royal palace.	True	False
4. Guy Fawkes's plan worked.	True	False
5. Bonfire Night is a warning as well as a celebration.	True	False
6. Guy Fawkes wanted people to remember him on 5 November.	True	False

Task 2

Circle the best answer.

1. What is the purpose of the first sentence in this post?
 - a. To show the writer has read other posts.
 - b. To say what the post is going to be about.
 - c. For the writer to introduce themselves.
2. Which word is missing from the first sentence?
 - a. They're
 - b. I'm
 - c. It's
3. What does the writer describe as *dark and horrible*?
 - a. Trying to blow up the Houses of Parliament.
 - b. Burning a model of Guy Fawkes.
 - c. Having a party in Britain in November.

4. Which thing does NOT show the writing is informal?
 - a. The writer talks directly to the reader using *you*.
 - b. The writer sometimes uses sentences that are not complete.
 - c. The writer gives some information about the history.
5. What does the word *Basically* mean at the beginning of a sentence?
 - a. The writer is going to give a summary.
 - b. The writer is going to give a lot of details.
 - c. The writer doesn't know all the details.
6. It's not OK for readers of the post to ...
 - a. be rude to the writer.
 - b. ask questions about Bonfire Night.
 - c. ask questions about July 4th.

Task 3

Write one word to fill each gap.

1. I'm Australian but I've living in the UK for two years.
2. Bonfire Night is celebrated 5 November.
3. The most interesting thing Bonfire Night is the history behind it.
4. Guy Fawkes tried to blow the Houses of Parliament.
5. He caught guarding the explosives.
6. Bonfire Night reminds people of happens if you plot against your own country.

Discussion

What tradition do you like best from your country?

Answers

Preparation task

1. e
2. c
3. d
4. b
5. f
6. a

Task 1

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. False
5. True
6. False

Task 2

1. a
2. c
3. b
4. c
5. a
6. a

Task 3

1. been
2. on
3. about
4. up
5. was | got
6. what