**Narratives and recounts**

A narrative or recount is a piece of writing which tells about something that happened in the past. You might see the word **narrative** used to describe fiction (stories) and **recount** to describe non-fiction (e.g. a witness statement). However, it’s important to note that the word **narrative** is often used in the exam question to mean both of those. The examiner is expecting you to write about a **sequence of events**.

**Key features of narratives and recounts**

* written in the past tense (past simple and past continuous)
* in chronological order i.e. the order in which the events happened
* uses conjunctions to show the order of events
* the purpose can be to inform, entertain, reflect or evaluate
* should be written in paragraphs
* should have a heading but generally **doesn’t** use sub headings
* should have a clear ending

**Example exam questions**

* Write about an experience you have had e.g. a balloon ride or a day trip to the zoo with your family
* You witnessed an accident/a crime. Write a witness statement.