

New Year's resolutions

Learn how to write about your New Year's resolutions.

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 invest in something
2. savings
3. to track something
4. to aim to do something
5. a resolution
6. in public

Definition

- a. a promise to yourself to do something
- b. in a place where people can see it
- c. to record and pay attention to something
- d. to plan to do something
- e. to put money into something that will increase in value over time
- f. money you keep in the bank for the future

Write about your New Year's resolutions for the coming year. Before you start, plan what you are going to include and think about who is going to read it.

My New Year's resolutions

by Darren

I like to start every year with my New Year's resolutions. Then I read them next 1 January and see how well I did!

Here are my resolutions this year.

1. Get fit!!

I say this every year but I hope writing it in public will make it more real. I'm aiming for three runs a week – I think I can do it! I think a fitness tracking app might help me achieve it. Or I could find a running partner. If anyone who's reading this wants to be my partner, let me know!

2. Save 10 per cent of my salary a month

Having no savings is starting to worry me and 10 per cent is realistic. It's not too much, but it's not too little that I won't see it add up. I'll put the money into a special bank account that will make it grow ... Actually, I don't know much about that so maybe my next resolution should be to find out how to invest money!!

3. Cook more

I'd like to start inviting friends for dinner and cooking for them. I think once a month is a good plan. By the end of the year I want to have five dishes I can cook really well so people will say, 'Have you ever had Darren's delicious cooking?' Who wants to be my first guest?

.....

Tips

1. Before you start a writing task, make a plan. First, write down lots of ideas you could include. Then choose the best and most interesting ones.
2. Don't write all your ideas in one section. Make one section for each idea. Write a heading for each section to show the reader what it's about.
3. Think about *who* is going to read the text and choose the style accordingly. For your classmates, use an informal and clear style.
4. Keep your reader interested by talking directly to them, e.g. by asking a question.
5. When you have finished your writing, read it and check it for mistakes.

Tasks

Task 1

Write the phrases in the correct box.

Read more	Save money regularly	Save enough money to buy something	Find a new job	Study hard
Find someone to run with	Run three times a week	Eat healthier food	Cook for his friends	Learn how to cook five dishes

Things the writer wants to do	Things the writer doesn't mention

Task 2

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. The text has a formal style.	True	False
2. The text is organised as three main sections.	True	False
3. The writer's plan may have had more than these three ideas in it.	True	False
4. The writer didn't use any headings.	True	False
5. The writer talks directly to the reader.	True	False
6. There are lots of mistakes, so the writer didn't check his work.	True	False

Task 3

Complete the sentences.

often	by	every day
a	once	twice

1. I'm going to cook for my friends (one time) a month.
2. I want to be able to run 10 kilometres the end of the year.
3. I'm planning to go running three times week.
4. I'm going to watch a film in English (two times) a week.
5. I'm aiming to revise my English notes for ten minutes
6. I want to cook food at home more

Discussion

Do you make New Year's resolutions? What will next year's be?

Answers

Preparation task

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

Task 1

Things the writer wants to do	Things the writer doesn't mention
Cook for his friends Find someone to run with Learn how to cook five dishes Run three times a week Save money regularly	Eat healthier food Find a new job Read more Save enough money to buy something Study hard

Task 2

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

Task 3

1. once
2. by
3. a
4. twice
5. every day
6. often