



KS3 English

Writing - Composition Writing in the style of the past / how words change



FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY

Writing in the Style of the Past

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

Around the Isle of Wight Steam Railway you'll see that some of the writing styles are oldfashioned, from the past. Words change over time, as they fall out of use or get replaced by other, more common words.

Texts from the past

TASK

- Have a look at the letter below. It was written in 1871 after a head-on collision near Sandown.
- Have a look at how the letter is constructed can you notice any unusual vocabulary?
- Answer the questions on pages 1 and 2, and then have a go at writing your own letter.

15th April 1871:

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I did not report the slight accident we had on Saturday lest(which might have been a most serious one) knowing there was no Board before Friday, and having been so fully engaged the last day or two. Our inspector was the first in error: in desiring the Ryde Station Master to telegraph the 12.24 train from Sandown the Ryde Station Master to telegraph the 12.24 train from Sandow should be sent on to Ryde - no telegram being necesary. In the second place, the Ryde Station Master instead of telegraphing "12.24 train will cross as usual at Sandown, and the special will await the arrival of the up train at Ryde" simply said "Send 12.24 train mm to Ryde" Of course, the Sandown Station Master thought there was some detention at Ryde, and sent on the 12.24 train and the two trains met in the cutting close to the station instead of crossing at Sandown. Great credit is due to the enginemen, and I would recommend that 20/- be given to each of them, and 5/- to each of the two firemen.

Yours faithfully

Isle of

The gratuities recommended were paid, and the Board made suitable expressions of gratitude. Several passengers were quite seriously injured in the collisions col. Yolland made a report to the BOT.

Ouestions

1. Even though the accident actually caused several serious injuries, why might the writer have described it as a 'slight accident'? HUdesi Ndesi

Questions (continued)

2. Why do you think the writer of the letter did not report the accident straight away?

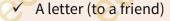
Writing task

- Imagine you were a passenger on the train, or a witness to the crash
- Write your account of the accident

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A letter (to the railway company, as a complaint)

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- A statement given to the police
- An interview given to the local newspaper, the "Isle of Wight edudest.V County Press' ,dudest.
- A form of your choice

