

The opening and closing of a Composition

A. A good composition should have a **strong opening** which *attracts the readers' attention and makes them want to read more*. A few good ways of opening your composition include:

1. A question (Rhetoric question): Have you ever been to the National Gallery?
2. A surprising statistic or fact: The soap opera is probably the most popular form of television entertainment.
3. A personal address to the reader: You may think, as I once did, that being wealthy and famous can make you happy. (Potser creus, com jo abans, que ser ric i famós et pot portar la felicitat)
4. A Provocative statement: Cable TV should be censored, and the sooner the better (La TV per cable s'hauria de prohibir, com més aviat millor)

EXERCISE - Choose one of the following topics. Write four different opening sentences using each of the above categories.

1. My favourite film/TV programme (= program)
2. (British English - programme / American English - program)
3. Spaniards and food
4. (Spanish people = The Spanish = Spaniards)
5. Museums and I

B. The **Conclusion** of your composition is often a *paraphrase of the main idea expressed in the opening*. It should leave the reader with "food for thought", that is, something to think about after reading.

Certain words or expressions (**Connectors**) are often used to indicate the **conclusion** of a piece of writing:

● **Lastly, Last but not least, Finally, In summary, To sum up, In short, Clearly, Therefore, Thus, It is clear, It is obvious that, In conclusion, Last of all...**

You can also express your **personal opinion** in the conclusion:

● **In my opinion, In my view, From my point of view, Personally, As I see it, As far as I am concerned**

EXERCISE - read the composition below and answer the questions that follow.

Have you ever been disappointed after seeing the film of a book you've read? This happened to me recently. I saw a film which hardly reflected the book at all. In the book, the history takes place in pre-war London, whereas in the film, we find ourselves in the present day. In contrast to the spontaneous and amusing hero in the novel, the film hero didn't seem to have the same sense of humour somehow. While I understand that you can't get all the details of a book into a two-hour film, I think the film could have paid more attention to the other characters, not just the hero and heroine. In typical Hollywood tradition, the tragic ending of the book was changed to a happier one, probably to please the audiences! So next time you see a film version of a book you've enjoyed, don't have high expectations. You may be disappointed.

- ⊗ What kind of opening was used in the composition?
- ⊗ How does the conclusion reflect the opening?
- ⊗ How does the writer develop the main idea?