

The Secret Agent – Week 1

Throughout this project we are going to explore a range of writing styles and techniques.

This week it's note taking for research and descriptive writing to describe a setting.

Your challenge is to complete the tasks outlined on the video. Remember to pause the video for each stage.

Day one: Research

Watch the short introduction by Mr Handley.

While you are making your way to India you need to research your destination. This will make it easier for you to navigate across the busy city of New Delhi, you will need to do is to locate the professor and the first clue.

Make notes on India. Remember notes use keywords only, rather than writing in full sentences. I have included an example of the notes I made about the country.

You can use your own research resources or the [India Facts PowerPoint](#) I have provided.

Day two: Planning

Now watch the rest of the video on our website (if you haven't done so already). It is of a walk through the busy streets of New Delhi.

As you watch the clip use the planning sheet ([Walking down an Indian street planning task with examples](#)) or a notebook to record what you can see and hear and how you would feel walking through these busy streets. Remember to listen really carefully and look closely it may take several watches of the video to complete the task.

When you are describing what you can see I would like you to use EXPANDED NOUN PHRASES <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwwp8mn/articles/z3nfw6f> and carefully chosen VERBS and ADVERBS. A verb is generally an action (walk) and an adverb is used to describe it (walked quickly).

Describe:

- What you can see – people walking, rushing, racing
- What you can hear – people talking, irritated car horns honking, buzzing scooter engines,
- How it is happening – noisily, quietly, quickly, calmly, angrily, happily

Extension

You may want to use PERSONIFICATION in your planning. This gives objects human characteristics e.g. the angry car horns. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfkk7ty/articles/zw9p8mn>

Again, I have done this myself to help you in your task ([Walking down an Indian street planning task with examples](#))

Here's a clip of Steve Backshall describing a coastal setting, it may help with the technique of planning and writing.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z2vpyrd>

Day three and four: Describing a setting

You've got all the information you need to produce a piece of fantastic piece of descriptive writing.

Your challenge today and tomorrow is to describe your journey from the airport across New Delhi to the meeting point with the professor. I have done an example for you ([My Journey across New Delhi by Mr H](#)). You may use it to guide you in your writing. Remember to use all the skills we have used in English this year and in previous years.

A successful description needs to:

- Describe the sights and sounds (use the expanded noun phrases from your planning and personification if you have used it).
- Describe your emotions (How do you feel in this busy city? How do you feel about the task you have been given as a secret agent? How are you feeling about meeting the professor?)
- Use a variety of sentence starters.
- Above all enjoy writing your description.

Remember to keep stopping and think; is there anything you'd like to change or improve? This is the editing process.