



Step 2: Sizzling Starts Opener examples

Even in an informative piece of writing, a Sizzling Start has to make the reader curious/challenged/fascinated so they want to keep reading.

Here are some great examples!

- *Every time you lick a stamp, you're consuming one tenth of a calorie.*
- *Polar bears are left-handed.*
- *The can opener was invented 48 years after the can.*
- *Metal shrinks when it is cold, so the Eiffel Tower is six inches shorter in winter.*



Step 2: Sizzling Starts On the Weekend

Before

- *I went swimming.*
- *We went to the park.*
- *We watched TV.*

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Recounts are often a list of things students have done with no sense of vibrancy or excitement. Try using the Sizzling Starts concept to help students write tight – and with life!

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After

- *I have a meat pie burn on my finger and a bigger burn on my tongue. Warning: Don't eat a pie at the footy that's been microwaved.*
- *Everyone loves fishing. Not me. And not the worm I had to put squiggling and wriggling onto the hook.*
- *We cleaned out the shed. I bet 20 million spiders are now homeless.*



Step 2: Sizzling Starts My Holiday Highlights

Before

During the holidays, Mum and Dad took me skiing for the first time. We drove to the mountain and unpacked all the gear. The next morning, we all got up ...

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Students often get locked into a linear story structure. Encourage them to start with action and then backfill to grab the reader's interest.

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After

The air was crisp, the snow was wickedly white and I was skiing fast down the mountain. Way too fast!

'Look out!' I cried and the 300 people in the tow queue straight ahead ducked in fear.

My family had gone skiing for the weekend, but the single lesson I'd taken that morning had neglected to teach me how to stop. Now suddenly it seemed like the whole mountain was flashing before my eyes.



Step 5: Show, Don't Tell Bears

Before

Bears stand at the top of waterfalls and catch the salmon leaping upstream.

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This simply TELLS the reader about bears ... watch how SHOWING gives such a better insight into what bears are really like.

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After

The bear stands at the top of the waterfall, his eyes watching a flash of silver in the pool below. It is a female salmon, struggling to swim upstream to lay her eggs. She has swum for two days now, heavy with eggs, and she is exhausted, but this is the last waterfall. She swims below, gathering her strength for the last great leap. The bear waits patiently. He can afford to be patient. He is standing at the narrowest part of the waterfall; he knows where the fish will come ...