Let’s read

All About Kunal

My name is Kunal Lal and I am ten years old. I have black hair and brown eyes. Mum and Dad measure how tall I am every birthday. I think it is a great idea. They put a pencil mark on the door. It was my birthday yesterday. I am one metre and ten centimetres tall.

I live with my family in Mumbai. Our house is in the suburbs, away from the crowded city centre. Mum is a doctor and Dad works in a bank. I have two siblings. My brother who is called Adit is eight, and my sister Giva is six. We go to school in Mumbai. I think it’s a really friendly school.

I really like food! My favourite food is crispy vegetable pakora, which is delicious. It is cauliflower and onions fried in batter. I also love all sorts of curries. Mum says I have to eat fruit. My favourites are juicy apricots, watermelon and mangos. I don’t really like apples but I have to eat them!
Music is always playing in our house. Dad likes sitar music and Mum listens to the Beatles. They were around ages ago! I find Mum and Dad’s music a bit boring! I’m into more modern stuff, especially rap music.

I like going to school and being with my friends. Some of the lessons are really interesting. My favourite is history. This term we are learning about explorers. They are people who go to places other people have never been before. They must be so brave! I’m not too keen on music lessons because I haven’t got a very good voice.

In my spare time, I play football. I play in goal. I get scared when the ball is flying towards me but I usually manage to stop the goal. I also help Dad with his garden and play difficult computer games.

Dad only lets me play on the computer for half an hour a day when I finish my homework, which I think is unfair! I also like reading. I like reading adventure stories and books about space travel, which I think are fascinating.
Let’s talk

A What word is missing from each sentence? Discuss your answers.

1 Kunal is ? years old.
2 He has ? hair and ? eyes.
3 He lives in ?
4 His brother is called ?
5 His sister is called ?
6 His Mum is a ?
7 His Dad works in a ?
8 His favourite food is ?
9 He does not like ?
10 He likes ? music.
11 His favourite lesson is ?
12 His least favourite lesson is ?
13 The sport he likes playing is ?
14 He likes reading ? stories.

B Think about Kunal. Discuss your answers.

1 Explain why you think Kunal’s parents measure him by putting a pencil mark on the door.
2 How do you know Kunal is the eldest child in his family?
3 Why do you think Kunal’s mum says he must eat fruit?
4 What does Kunal think about explorers?
5 Why does Kunal not like music lessons yet he likes listening to music?
6 Why do you think he is only allowed to play on his computer for half an hour each day?

C How is the autobiography written? Discuss your answers.

1 Why do you think Kunal uses words such as I, we and our?
2 Find three verbs in the autobiography.
   a What tenses are they written in?
   b Why do you think they are written in these tenses?
3 Find a fact in the autobiography.
4 Find the adjectives Kunal used to describe:
   a his hair  b his eyes  c the city centre.
Let’s learn

Pronouns – first person

An autobiography is written in the first person. It uses the pronouns I and we because the writer is writing about himself or herself.

I have black hair and brown eyes.

We go to school in Mumbai.

Top Tip

Pronouns are used in place of nouns.

A Write these third person sentences in the first person.

1 Kunal is ten years old.

2 Kunal and his family live in Mumbai.

3 Kunal and Adit are brothers.

B Use these first person pronouns to write something about yourself:

1 Use I.

2 Use We.
Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives show who owns or has something.

- our house (the house belonging to us)
- my mum (the mum belonging to me)
- his garden (the garden belonging to him)

These are possessive adjectives:

- my
- your
- his
- her
- its
- our
- their

A Underline the possessive adjective in each sentence.

1. My name is Giva.
2. His school is in Mumbai.
3. Their friends live next door.
4. We do our homework after school.
5. Is this her schoolbag?

B Use these possessive adjectives in sentences of your own.

1. your ____________________________
   ____________________________
2. their ____________________________
   ____________________________

Relative pronouns

These words are relative pronouns:

- who
- which
- that

Relative pronouns:

- take the place of a noun
- act as a conjunction.

My brother is called Adit. Adit is eight.
My brother who is called Adit is eight.

My favourite food is crispy vegetable pakora.
Crispy vegetable pakora is delicious.
My favourite food is crispy vegetable pakora, which is delicious.

We use who for people, which or that for animals and things.
A Underline the relative pronoun in each sentence.
1 This is the curry that is my favourite food.
2 She is the teacher who teaches us history.
3 I have a book that is all about goalkeeping.

B Complete each sentence with the correct relative pronoun.
1 He was an explorer ___________________________ discovered a new land.
2 Is this the cauliflower ___________________________ you bought today?
3 I found this book ___________________________ I thought I had lost.

Present tenses

An autobiography that is about a person’s life now is written in present tenses.

Mum is a doctor and Dad works in a bank.

This term, we are learning about explorers…

A Underline the present tense verb in each sentence.
1 Kunal’s mum works in the hospital.
2 You fry the cauliflower and onions.
3 Dad listens to sitar music.
4 We are exploring our new school.
5 I save lots of goals.
6 She is marking our homework.

B Write these past tense sentences in the present tense.
1 Dad made a mark on the door with a pencil.
2 We cooked a delicious curry.
3 I was playing an exciting computer game.
C Use these present tense verbs in sentences of your own.

1. am managing

2. travels

Factual information

**Autobiographies** contain the facts of a person’s life.

Kunal includes **facts** that tell readers about:

- **what he looks like**
  - I am one metre and ten centimetres tall.
- **his family**
  - I have two siblings.
- **what he does**
  - I like going to school and being with my friends.
- **what he likes and dislikes**
  - In my spare time I like playing football.
  - I don’t really like apples…

A Find a fact in Kunal’s autobiography about each of these.

1. his sister

2. his school

3. his music

4. his lessons
Thoughts and feelings

Kunal’s autobiography is not just a list of facts. He lets the reader know what he thinks and feels. He expresses his opinion.

The facts

Mum and Dad measure how tall I am every birthday.
We go to school in Mumbai.

What he thinks/feels

I think it is a great idea.
It’s a really friendly school.

Kunal uses adjectives to let the reader know what he thinks and feels about things.

What he is writing about

crispy vegetable pakora
Mum and Dad’s music

Adjective

delicious
boring

A What adjectives does Kunal use to show how he feels about:

1 apricots?

2 some of the lessons?

3 computer games?

4 stories?

B In your own words, explain what Kunal:

1 thinks about apples

2 feels about being a goalkeeper

3 thinks about only being allowed half an hour to play computer games.
Let’s practise

Abi is a ten-year-old girl.
She lives in the capital city of your country.
Her homework is to write about herself and her family.

You are going to imagine you are Abi, and write her autobiography.

A Planning

Use the questions below to help you plan your autobiography. Make notes.

1. What do you look like?
2. What does your mum do?
3. What does your dad do?
4. How many brothers and sisters do you have?
5. What are their names and ages?
6. Where do you go to school?
7. What do you think of your school?
13 What are your least favourite lessons? Give your reasons. Use adjectives.

14 What do you do in your spare time? Why?

B Writing

Now use your notes and write your autobiography as if you are Abi.

Give it a title.

Writer’s Toolbox

Have you:

- used first person pronouns?
- used possessive adjectives?
- used relative pronouns?
- written in present tenses?
- included factual information?
- included your thoughts and feelings?

Edit and proofread

Correct any mistakes in: spelling punctuation grammar

Write your neat copy.

Let’s write

You are now going to write your autobiography.

A Planning

Make notes in the boxes.

1 What do you look like?
   How tall are you?
   How old are you?