

**Professional Development Programme for Secondary Teachers of English
(BWP031)
Catering for Learner Diversity in English Language Learning (ENG 5356)**

Resource Pack Design

Module : Me and My Family

Unit : *Dear Dad, ...*

Task : Writing a personal letter

Target Group : S.2

Duration of Lesson : 3x40 minutes

Class Size : 15

Rationale for Lesson Design

According to surveys, most fathers in Hong Kong nowadays do not have a very close relationship with their teenage children. They are often away from home because of work, and do not have much involvement in their children's upbringing. This is more common in a traditional Chinese family. Thus, there are rarely any chances for teenagers to 'communicate' with their fathers in a deeper sense. Having this writing of a personal letter to their father, students can express their words to them freely.

I teach in a special school and class size is comparatively much smaller, which is a benefit in language teaching and learning. Besides the small class size, we often have a teaching assistant stationed in class to help students in learning. This makes group learning more efficient and effective. Despite the advantages mentioned, students in one class could have a very big gap in English level because of their physical and intellectual constraints. For example, some of the students are wheelchair-bound, some are non-verbal, some cannot write, some have visual impairment. Many activities designed by other professionals are not really suitable in our classroom due to limitations. Thus, more allowances have to be given e.g. more time and space given in completing the tasks, the use of computer aids and other tools, etc.

The class' ability is a mixed one, in which many of the students are of average to low proficiency of English. A few lack motivation to learn English. By getting a personal touch on the teacher's background as a start, students will be curious

about the topic. Yet the teacher has to be sensitive enough to note that some students might grow up in a broken family, a few of our students are actually orphans. In this sense, I believe the teacher can flexibly change the target role to be written about.

Other than the physical adaption, some consideration is necessary in grouping. Since students are of different levels of English proficiency, they are to be divided into three groups according to their learning styles (VAK learning style model) and ability. Each group is assigned tasks that are more suitable for them.

Those who are tends to be visual learners and more capable and independent will be assigned a short story. They will follow written instructions and analyze it. The news report will be given to students of average level of English and those who tend to be kinaesthetic. They will have to work out the story of the report by doing jigsaw reading. For auditory learners and those who are comparatively less capable, they will be assigned a song to listen to, with lyrics provided at a later stage. More assistance from teacher and the teaching assistant will be given to the last two groups.

Lesson Plan :

Duration	Objectives	Teaching Procedure	Teaching Materials
15 mins	<p><u>Motivation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To arouse students' interest 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher shows photos of his/her own father and shares with them his/her feeling towards him. 2. Teacher randomly selects a few students to draw and answer a question about their father. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teacher's family photos - Handout 1 – basic questions about one's father (Appendix A)
50 mins	<p><u>Pre-writing Task</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To practise comprehending information in a given text - To brainstorm ideas on 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher divides students into different groups according to their learning styles (VAK learning style model) and their English levels 2. Each group is assigned a different task (Handout 2a, 2b and 2c) 3. Each group present their findings from the task assigned to them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handout 2a – A short story 'A father learns a lesson from his son (Appendix B) - Handout 2b –A newspaper report 'Father punches daughter in eye over phone use' (Appendix C) - Handout 2c –A song 'Sing Me A Song Again' by Jose Marie Chan (Appendix D) and MP3 file of the song
55 mins	<p><u>Writing Task</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To reflect on their relationship with father - To revise the features of a personal letter - To write a personal letter to their father 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher revise the features of informal letter using the sample letter as an example 2. Each student is given a guide sheet according to their ability (graded sheets - *** more help, *less help) 3. Teacher briefly go over the guide sheet 4. Students write their own letter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handout 3 – Graded writing guide sheet (Appendix E)

Teacher's note

Motivation

- Teacher's sharing can base on what will be introduced in the writing outline at a later stage.
- An example letter from http://www.writing.com/main/view_item/item_id/677725-Letter-to-My-Father is adapted below for use to save time:

Hi Dad,

This is probably the hardest letter for me to write. I've so many feelings about you, about our relationship.

We've never been very close. I never knew how to break the 'wall' between us. I was afraid of you. How did you really feel when you found out Mum was pregnant? How did you feel when I wasn't a boy? Do you really hate me?

I know I've been a burden on you, and I'm sorry. I've tried to do the best I could in everything. I only wish you could love me more. For the past thirty-eight years, I've waited for your attention, but I'm always disappointed.

I never asked you about your childhood. I wanted to know things like: Did grandpa spend time with you? Did he help you with homework? How did he discipline you? How were you treated since you were the second son?

The biggest question I have for you is: Why did you discipline so harshly? Why was I beaten with a ruler? Also, why did you call me 'Stupid Pig'? It made me feel so bad. It hurt me?" I'd waited for the day I could leave and never return. A child's home is supposed to be safe and warm. Why didn't I have that? As my father, you should protect me.

After I left HK twelve years ago, I knew I'd made many mistakes. You were there to help. Thanks. When you offered to let me go home, I said no because I was already an adult.

When Matthew was born, I was so happy. Unlike me, Matthew will receive all the love from me. That is what a parent is supposed to give her child. That is something I seldom received from you when I was a child.

I'm writing this through tears of sadness and anger. I know you don't show your feelings, but my sincerest hope for us is to really talk, OK?

Love,

Daisy

Pre-writing Task

2a. A short story 'A father learns a lesson from his son'

- Since this is given to a more capable group, written instruction and a guide sheet is given (Appendix B) for them to work on their own. They are provided with dictionary. Peer support and cooperation is expected.
- This group can work out a reader theatre in their presentation.
- Suggested answers for Task 1:

Word	Part of Speech	Meaning in English	Meaning in Chinese (for reference)
carpenter	noun	someone whose job is making and repairing wooden things	木匠
quantity	noun	an amount of	量
appear (to be)	verb	seem to be	似乎
drunkard	noun	someone who gets drunk very often	酒鬼
abuse	verb	to treat someone in a cruel and very bad way	虐待、辱罵
respect	verb	admire	尊敬

attitude	noun	the way you behave towards someone	態度
character	noun	the qualities that make a person	性格
cruelly	adverb	causing pain and suffering	殘暴地
harsh	adjective	cruel, unkind	嚴厲的
ill-treat	verb	to treat someone in a very bad way	虐待
speak against	verb	to say your opinions openly, especially in opposition to something and in a way that takes courage	反對、反抗
carpentry tool	noun phrase	equipment used by carpenter	木匠的工具
severely	adverb	very bad and seriously	嚴格地
realize	verb	to understand a situation	認識到
behaviour	noun	the way someone behaves	行為

- Suggested answers for Task 2 :

1. He was a carpenter.
2. He treated his father cruelly.
3. He often gets drunk.
4. It was because Kelvin broke the glass plate.
5. It was because Tom was a bad person and he often used harsh words to abuse his father. Mark was afraid he would be scolded too.
6. No, he didn't. He wanted to let his father know that ill-treating Kelvin was very bad.
7. He never thought that Mark would say something like that to him.
8. Yes. He indirectly made his father understand that he had done something very wrongly.

2b. A newspaper report 'Father punches daughter in eye over phone use'

- A glossary with English explanation are distributed to the group. Students have to write down the Chinese meaning of the words.
- Task 1 : Glossary

Word	Part of Speech	Meaning in English	Meaning in Chinese
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according to	adverb phrase	as stated or shown by	根據
arrest	verb	caught by police	逮捕
school grade	noun phrase	school results	成績
refuse	verb	not willing to do something	拒絕
draw back one's fist	verb phrase	fingers bent inwards and held tightly in order to hit	舉拳
swelling	noun	a part of the body that has become larger because of injury	腫脹
bruising	noun	Purple marks that you get on the skin where you have been hit	青腫
eye lid	noun	a piece of skin that covers your eye when it is closed	眼瞼
wrestle	verb	to fight by holding or pulling or pushing	扭成一團
deny	verb	to say that something is not true	否認
charge	verb	to say officially that someone may have done something illegally	控告

- Each student is given a part of the story in the report. As a group, they have to work out the correct order of the happenings.
- Students are given the report to check their answers.
- Answers for Task 2 : Jigsaw Reading
C → G → B → A → D → I → H → F → E
- This group can try a mini drama in the presentation.

2c. A song 'Sing Me A Song Again' by Jose Marie Chan

- Instead of immediately giving the lyrics to the group, teacher can ask students to listen to the song and try to work out the missing words (Appendix C).
- The song can be played more than once if necessary.
- Listening post could be used in this group to avoid disturbing other groups.
- After they get the whole piece of lyrics, they can complete the questions about the song.
- A glossary is provided for better understanding and saving time.
- A few video clips of this song are available on YouTube. Here is one of them :
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c251sjoLgic> Teacher can let students sing along with the clips as their presentation.

- Answers for Task 1 : Lyrics of the song

Sing me a song again, Daddy
Sing me a happy verse.
Teach me those clever lines you sang
As you carried me on your shoulders.
Sing me that hymn that you so loudly
Sang in church with mom.
Sing it again to me and fill me
With all your words of wisdom.

Comforting words of love when I
Would get home from school in tears.
Somehow your songs have stayed within me
Down through all the years.
Once when my younger heart was broken
Your shoulder was there to cry on.
Sing me those songs I know will linger
Long after you have gone.

- I am standing at the threshold
Of a chapter in my life
I am asking for your blessing

As I'm about to be the wife
Of a man I know who loves me
And I'm proud to be his bride.
Dad the time has come for me to leave your side.

So, sing me a song again, Daddy.
Sing me a lullaby.
Wrap me inside your arms, Daddy,
'Though this is not goodbye.
*Your songs will live forever
In my heart. When times get rough
The ones I'll most remember
Are your songs of love. (*)

- Suggested answers for Task 2 :
 1. It is for a father.
 2. She wants him to sing her a song again.
 3. It is because she is going to get married.
 4. Yes. The father did a lot of things for her : e.g. comforted her when she is sad; sang her lullaby.

Writing Task

- Teacher gives out the part about elements and features of a personal letter in Appendix E and go over the main points based on the sample letter. Students should have learnt how to write a personal e-mail or letter in S.1.
- After the revision, students are assigned a writing task. Guide sheets are given to them based on their English levels (graded guide sheets are marked *, ** and ***).
- The writing task should be completed within the lessons. More assistance should be given to weaker group of students.

Appendix A

Handout 1

(to be cut into strips)

1. Use three adjectives to describe your father.
2. List three things your father likes.
3. List three things your father owns.
4. Complete this sentence : My father is good at _____
5. Have you ever argued with your father? If so, why? What happened in the end?

Appendix B

2a

A Father learns A Lesson from His Son

Tom was a carpenter living in a village. His mother had died a long time back. His aged father, Kelvin, lived with him. Kelvin was very weak. He could not even walk well. He was so weak because Tom did not give him enough food. He had given his father a small glass plate. Even a small quantity of rice in the plate appeared to be much. Tom was a bad son. He was a drunkard also. After taking drinks, he abused his father badly.

Tom had a son. His name is Mark. Mark was just ten years old. He was a very good boy. He loved his grandfather and had great respect for his grandfather. He did not like his father's attitude and character because his father was treating his grandfather cruelly.

One day Kelvin was eating his food out of the plate that his son had given to him. The plate fell down and broke into pieces. The food also fell on the floor. Tom was working at the other end of the room. He saw the broken plate and was very angry with his father and used very harsh words to abuse his father. The old man felt bad about what happened and was sorry for his mistake. Tom's words hurt him very deeply.

Tom's son, Mark, saw this. He did not like his father for he was ill-treating his grandfather, yet he was afraid to speak against him. He was sad about his grandfather, but was not powerful to stand in support of him.

The next day Mark took some of his father's carpentry tools and a piece of wood. His father saw him working.

"What are you making, Mark?" Tom asked.

"I am making a wooden plate," replied Mark.

"A wooden plate? What for?" asked his father.

"I am making it for you, father. When you grow old, like Grandpa, you will need a

plate for food. A plate made from glass break very easily. Then I may scold you severely. So, I want to give you a wooden plate. It does not break so easily.”

Tom was shocked to hear this. Only now he realized his mistake. His father was kind to him and had looked after him very well when he was young. Now, his father was old but he was treating him cruelly. Tom was now very sad about his own behaviour. He realized his mistakes.

From that day, Tom had become a different person. He treated Kelvin with great respect. He gave up drinking too. Tom learnt a lesson from his own son.

Adapted from :

<http://www.english-for-students.com/A-Father-learns-A-Lesson-from-His-Son.html>

Task 1

The following words appear in the story. Do you know all of them? Each of you is given a dictionary. Divide the number of words among yourselves and look up their meaning. Explain the words to your group members afterwards.

Word	Part of Speech	Meaning in English
carpenter	noun	
quantity	noun	
appear (to be)	verb	
drunkard	noun	
abuse	verb	
respect	verb	
attitude	noun	
character	noun	
cruelly	adverb	
harsh	adjective	
ill-treat	verb	
speak against	verb phrase	
carpentry tool	noun phrase	
severely	adverb	
realize	verb	
behaviour	noun	

Task 2

Read the story 'A father learns a lesson from his son' and answer the following questions.

1. What was Tom?
2. How did Tom treat his father?
3. What bad habit did Tom have?
4. Why did Tom use harsh words to abuse his father?
5. Why was Mark afraid of speaking to his father?
6. Did Mark really want to make a wooden plate for his father? If not, why did he do so?
7. Tom was 'shocked' to hear what his son told him. Why was he 'shocked'?
8. Do you think Mark is clever? Explain your answer.

Task 3

Perform a reader theatre in your presentation. Divide the work among your group members. There should be four roles in it: Tom, Kelvin, Mark and the narrators. If there are more than four people in your group, there can be more narrators.

Appendix C

2b

Task 1

The following words appear in the newspaper report. Below are the English and meanings of the words to help you understand. Can you write down their Chinese meanings?

Word	Part of Speech	Meaning in English	Meaning in Chinese
according to	adverb phrase	as stated or shown by	
arrest	verb	caught by police	
school grade	noun phrase	school results	
refuse	verb	not willing to do something	
draw back one's fist	verb phrase	fingers bent inwards and held tightly in order to hit	
swelling	noun	a part of the body that has become larger because of injury	
bruising	noun	Purple marks that you get on the skin where you have been hit	
eye lid	noun	a piece of skin that covers your eye when it is closed	
wrestle	verb	to fight by holding or pulling or pushing	
deny	verb	to say that something is not true	
charge	verb	to say officially that someone may have done something illegally	

Task 2

Each of you gets a part of the report. Read your part and then work out with your group members the correct order of the happenings.

Jigsaw Reading

A. He told the his daughter to give him her phone, but she refused. He drew back his fist as if he was going to hit her. She then kicked him. The father drew back his fist again and hit her in the face.

B. The father was out drinking in a bar at the time. His girlfriend called him and told him that the girl had been talking on the phone. He went home to talk to the girl.

C. Due to bad grades at school, the girl was not allowed to use her mobile phone.

D. The girl climbed out through her bedroom window that night. She went to the neighbour's house and told the woman that her father had hit her in the face. The neighbour called the police.

E. The father was charged with child abuse. Child Protective Services was called and The girl stayed with the neighbour about the case.

F. He denied hitting her and said he didn't know how she got injured.

G. When she was using her mobile phone, her father's girlfriend saw her. She went in to the girl's room and tried to take the phone away.

H. The father told the officer that his girlfriend had called him so he went home to talk to his daughter. When she refused to give him the phone, they "wrestled around".

I. The police came and found that there were swelling and bruising around the girl's eye. They questioned the father.

When you finish, read the report below and check if you get the order correct.

Father punches daughter in eye over phone use

Wendy Victora

Florida Freedom Newspapers

March 12, 2009

A child went to the neighbour's house just before midnight on March 5 and told the woman that answered the door that her father had hit her in the face, according to the Police Department arrest report. She told the woman she had climbed out through her bedroom window.

The girl said that she was using a mobile phone when her father's girlfriend came in to take the phone away. Due to bad school grades, she was not allowed to use the phone. The father was out drinking in a bar at the time, but no one knew which one. The report said that he often goes out on Thursday nights.

His girlfriend called to tell him the girl had been talking on the phone so he returned home. When she refused to give him the phone, he drew back his fist as if he was going to hit her, so she kicked him, according to the report. He drew back his fist again and then hit her in the face, the report said.

The police officer noticed swelling and bruising around her eye and on her eye lid.

The father told the officer that his girlfriend had called him so he had come home to talk to the girl. When she refused to give him the phone, they "wrestled around" until he got it, he told police. He denied hitting her and said he didn't know how she got injured.

The father was charged with child abuse. Child Protective Services was called about the case. The girl stayed with the neighbour.

Adapted from : <http://www.crestviewbulletin.com/news/phone-5624-report-father.html>

Task 3

You will do a mini-drama in your presentation. Discuss with your group members who will play the roles and the lines in the drama.

Appendix D

2c

Task 1

Listen to the song and fill in the missing words.

Sing Me A Song Again, Daddy

Jose Marie Chan

Sing me a song again, Daddy
Sing me a _____ verse.
Teach me those clever lines you sang
As you carried me on your _____.
Sing me that hymn that you so loudly
Sang in _____ with mom.
Sing it again to me and fill me
With all your words of wisdom.

Comforting words of love when I
Would get home from _____ in tears.
Somehow your _____ have stayed within me
Down through all the years.
Once when my _____ heart was broken
Your shoulder was there to cry on.
Sing me those songs I know will linger
Long after you have gone.

I am _____ at the threshold
Of a chapter in my life
I am asking for your blessing
As I'm about to be the _____
Of a man I know who loves me

And I'm _____ to be his bride.
Dad the time has come for me to leave your side.

So, sing me a song again, Daddy.
Sing me a lullaby.
Wrap me inside your _____, Daddy,
'Though this is not goodbye.

* Your songs will live _____
In my heart. When times get rough
The ones I'll most _____
Are your songs of love. (*)

Task 2

The following words appear in the song. Below are the English and Chinese meanings of the words to help you understand.

Word	Part of Speech	Meaning in English	Meaning in Chinese
verse	noun	lines to form a poem or song	詩句
hymn	noun	a religious song	聖詩
wisdom	noun	have experience and knowledge	智慧
comforting	adjective	making someone who is sad or worried feel better	令人欣慰的
in tears	noun phrase	crying	流淚
linger	verb	stay in a place longer	徘徊
threshold	noun	at the beginning of a new development	開端
blessing	noun	words of support and encouragement	祝福
bride	noun	the woman on her wedding day	新娘
lullaby	noun	a quiet song sung to make a child sleep	搖籃曲
rough	adjective	difficult and	艱難的

		unpleasant	
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Answer the following questions:

1. Who is this song for?
2. What does the girl want her father to do?
3. Why does she want her father to do so?
4. Does the girl have a loving father? How do you know?

Task 3

Your group is going to perform the song in the presentation. Go to the link below and practise singing along with the video.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c251sjoLgic>

Appendix E

Handout 3

A personal letter

We write personal letters to communicate with our friends and family. A personal letter is usually less formal and we can use informal language. For example, we use contractions (such as *I'm...*, *he won't...*, *they've...*), abbreviations (such as *Dr. Wong*, *TV*), informal wordings (such as *wanna*, *gotta*) and even icons or symbols (such as ☺, ✓). It also begins with a friendly greeting e.g. *Hello Jack*, and ends with a friendly closing e.g. *See you soon!*

Below is an example of a personal letter written to my father. Notice the different parts and special features in it.

The diagram shows a personal letter with several callout boxes and brackets. On the left, a box labeled 'friendly greeting' points to the text 'Hi Dad,'. Below it, a box labeled 'informal wording' points to the text 'Mum was pregnant?'. To the right, a box labeled 'contractions' points to the text 'I've so many feelings'. On the far right, a bracket groups the first two paragraphs under the label 'introductory paragraph', and another bracket groups the remaining three paragraphs under the label 'body'. The letter text is as follows:

Hi Dad,

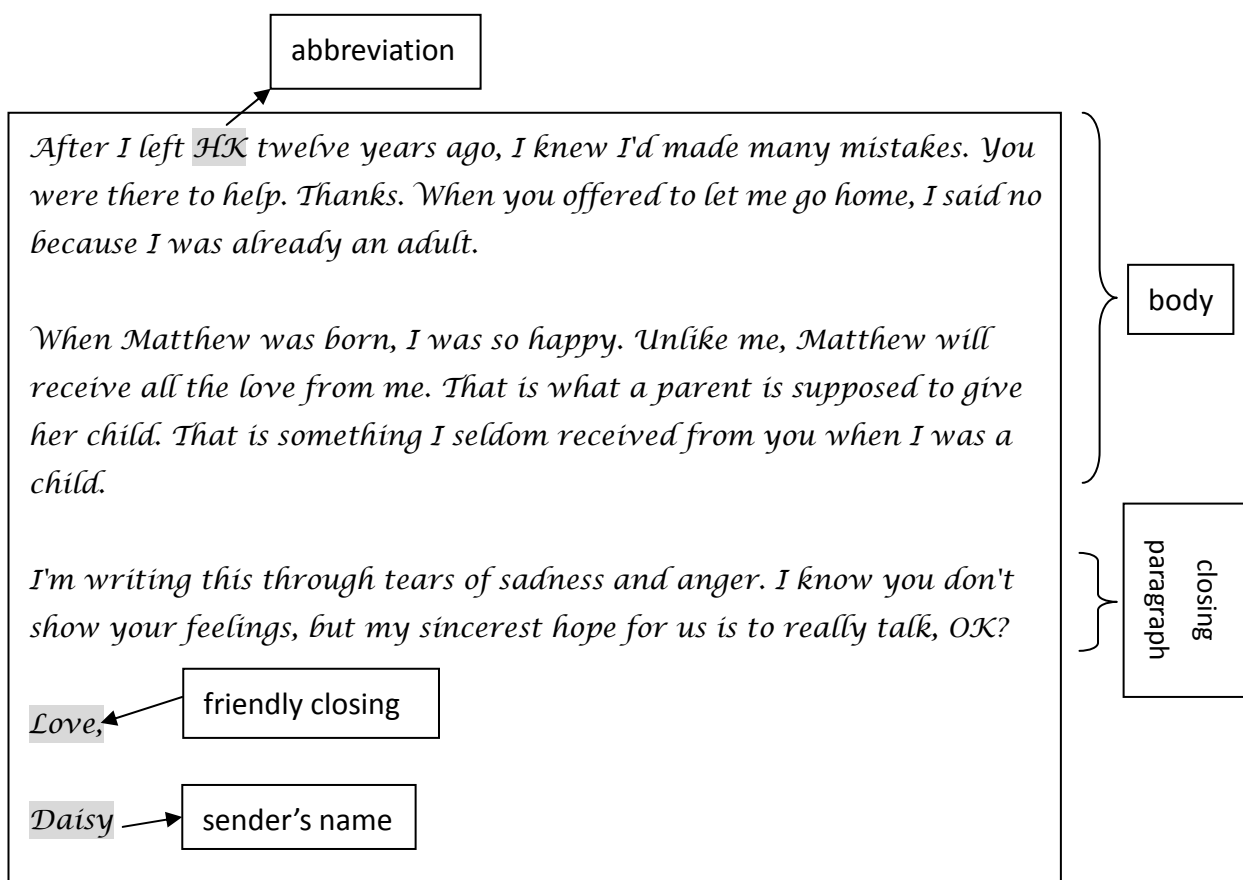
This is probably the hardest letter for me to write. I've so many feelings about you, about our relationship.

We've never been very close. I never knew how to break the 'wall' between us. I was afraid of you. How did you really feel when you found out Mum was pregnant? How did you feel when I wasn't a boy? Do you really hate me?

I know I've been a burden on you, and I'm sorry. I've tried to do the best I could in everything. I only wish you could love me more. For the past thirty-eight years, I've waited for your attention, but I'm always disappointed.

I never asked you about your childhood. I wanted to know things like: Did grandpa spend time with you? Did he help you with homework? How did he discipline you? How were you treated since you were the second son?

The biggest question I have for you is: Why did you discipline so harshly? Why was I beaten with a ruler? Also, why did you call me 'Stupid Pig'? It made me feel so bad. It hurt me". I'd waited for the day I could leave and never return. A child's home is supposed to be safe and warm. Why didn't I have that? As my father, you should protect me.



Can you find more examples of contractions, abbreviation and informal wordings?

A personal letter contains mainly three parts : an introductory paragraph, the body and a closing paragraph. But, what do we write about in each part?

***Writing a personal letter to father : Dear Dad,...**

Say, you are going to write a letter to your father to tell him your feelings towards him, think about what you write in the letter.

Introductory paragraph:

- Why are you writing?

Body:

- What are your feelings towards him?
- Are there any examples you can give?
- What did he do to make you have those feelings?
- Is there anything particular you want to tell your father?

Closing paragraph:

- What do you expect your father to do after reading your letter?

****Writing a personal letter to father : Dear Dad,...**

Say, you are going to write a letter to your father to tell him your feelings towards him, think about what you write in the letter.

Introductory paragraph

Why are you writing?
To thank him? To tell him
your feeling? To share a secret?

Body

What are your feelings towards him?
Happy? Angry? Disappointed?

Are there any examples you can give?
When did it happen?

What did he do to make you have those feelings?

What happened? How did it happen?

Is there anything special you want to tell your father?

Closing paragraph

What do you expect your father to do after reading your letter? Any change in your relationship or daily life?

*****Writing a personal letter to father : Dear Dad,...**

Say, you are going to write a letter to your father to tell him your feelings towards him, think about what you write in the letter.

Introductory paragraph

Why are you writing?

e.g. There are so many things I want to tell you, Dad.

Body

What are your feelings towards him? Angry? Happy?
Warm? Proud?

e.g. I feel...when I think of you.

Are there any examples you can give?

e.g. I remember when I was eight, ...

What did he do to make you have those feelings?

e.g. You ran to me and held me so tight that I could hardly breathe!

Are there anything you want to tell your father?
e.g. Dad, I want to let you know that I enjoy being being with you.

Closing paragraph

What do you expect your father to do after reading your letter?

e.g. I hope you can come home for dinner more often.