

The first time I ...

An activity of "Visiting Japan after the horrors of the Occupation years"

In "Visiting Japan after the horrors of the Occupation years" (page 10, *What's Up* January 2020), the author reflects on what she learnt on her first visit to Japan. Read the article and study how she uses the structure below to organise her writing. Then, using the same structure, plan a reflection on a new experience you had in 2019, by filling in the last column.

My reflection on the first time I _____

Structure		Examples from article	About my new experience in 2019
Introduction	Thoughts & opinions before the new experience	Paragraphs 1–2. ★ As a child, author heard stories about the Japanese Occupation. ★ Studied World War 2 in school. ★ Hated and feared the Japanese.	
	Description of the new experience	Paragraph 3. ★ Son brought author on a trip to Japan. ★ Prepared reluctantly. ★ Tried to keep an open mind.	
Body	First lesson learnt + elaboration	Paragraph 4. ★ <u>Lesson</u> : Many foreigners live and work in Japan. ★ <u>Elaboration</u> : Talked to a Filipina on the train but talked to very few Japanese people.	
	Second lesson learnt + elaboration	Paragraph 5. ★ <u>Lesson</u> : Japanese homes are very small. ★ <u>Elaboration</u> : Comparison with HDB flats in Singapore; the land use in Japan.	
	Third lesson learnt + elaboration	Paragraphs 6–7. ★ <u>Lesson</u> : Many Koreans live and work in Japan. ★ <u>Elaboration</u> : History of Korea and Japan.	
Conclusion	What I learnt from the new experience	Paragraph 8. ★ We cannot control what governments do, but citizens can do their bit to smoothen relationships with others.	