

<i>900 exercises in vocational communication</i>	Notes for teachers	D3/13
<i>General aim</i>	D: Compose a written message	
<i>Level of difficulty</i>	3	
<i>Intermediate aim</i>	1. Produce a written message	
<i>Operational aim</i>	3. Describe a situation or an event 1.0 Describe a situation 2.0 Describe an event	
<i>Pre-requirements</i>	Ability to write complex sentences.	
<i>Number of exercises</i>	8	
<i>Summing-up exercise</i>	D3/13-2.4	
<i>Comments</i>		

WHAT IS A SITUATION?

The word “**situation**” can concern several very different things.

Examples:

“Can you give me the exact **situation** of the building?”

→ **place**

“What is your **situation** in this firm?”

→ **a job and the hierarchy involved**

“What was the **situation** at the time of the accident?”

→ **the context, what was happening at the time of the accident**

WHAT IS TO “DESCRIBE”?

Describing consists in representing or painting something in writing or orally, as faithfully as possible to the reality.

*Let's read the following text taken from the novel by Georges Duhamel called
The solicitor from Le Havre.*

This text could be called: "Situation of a family before dinner"

In the dining room, from dusk onwards, our beautiful oil lamp, always well polished, always slightly damp with oil, burned brightly. We were working or playing there, under the spell of the light, and Mother, trying to lay the table, grumbled as she pushed away our books and copy books.

Ferdinand was meticulously writing out his carefully-shaped letters. His nose was almost on the page. He was already desperately in need of glasses, but it was a long time before it was noticed. Joseph, elbows leaning on the tablecloth, was pretending to recite his lessons, but he was reading the newspaper propped up against a glass in front of him. Cecile was playing under the table and I, gradually ceasing to chant⁽³⁾ the never-ending times tables, was feeling around for her and teasing her with my foot. We could hear Mother stirring an iron saucepan in the kitchen, on the other side of the wall.

Joseph yawned vigorously several times and shouted, "I'm hungry!"

Mother appeared in the doorway. She was wiping her hands on her blue linen apron. She said: "Your father is late. Children, we're going to start without him. Come and wash your hands."

(1) to repeat monotonously or religiously

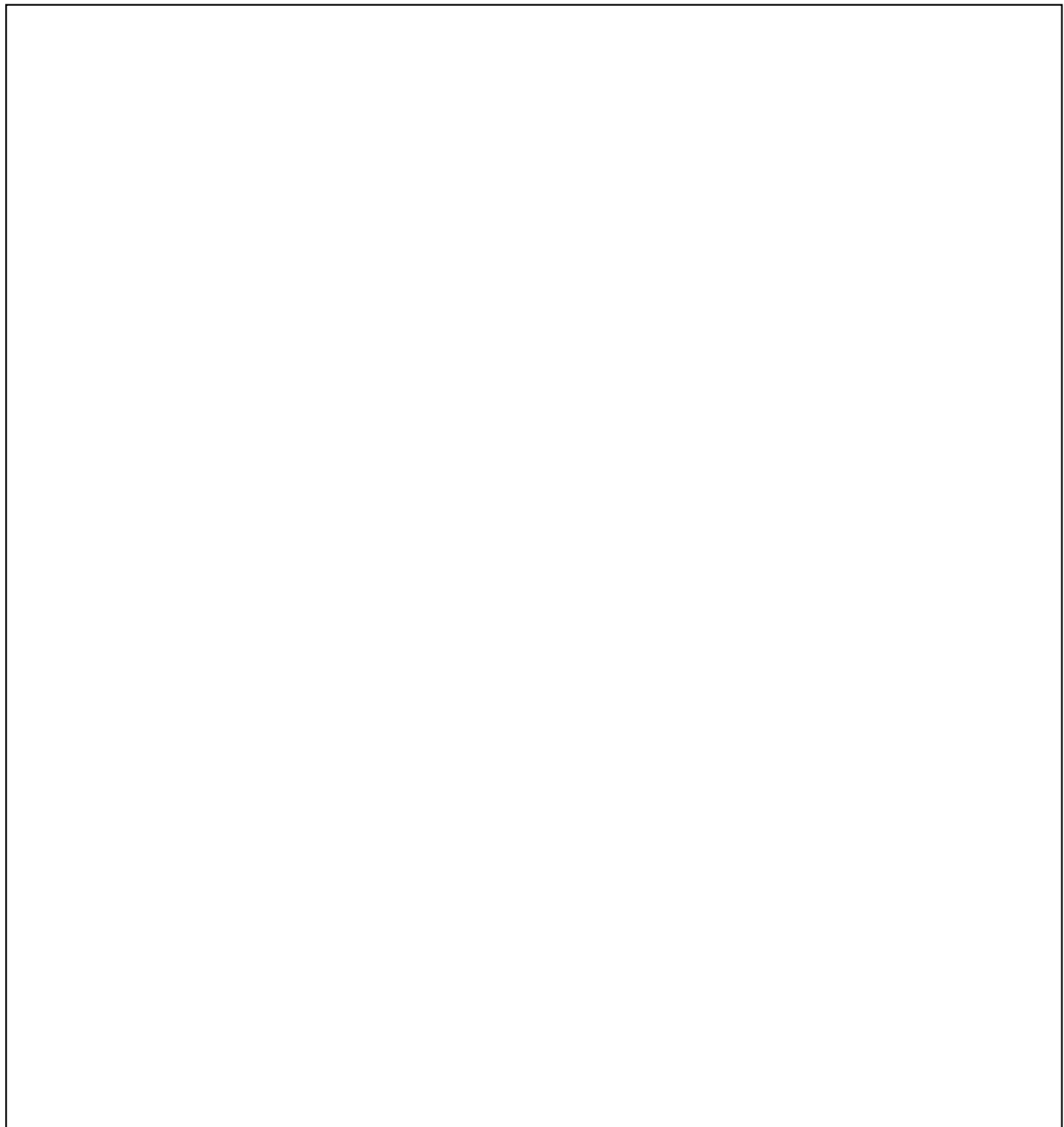
What does this text describe?

- The place:
- a dining room
 - a kitchen on the other side of the wall
- The objects:
- a large copper lamp
 - books and exercise books
 - a newspaper
 - a table
- The time:
- before dinner
- The characters:
- the children
 - the mother
- The action:
- Ferdinand is writing
 - Joseph is reading the newspaper in secret
 - Cecile is playing under the table
 - The narrator (the person who says "I") is reciting his multiplication tables and teasing his little sister
 - The mother is preparing dinner

<i>900 exercises in vocational communication</i>	Exercise	D3 / 13 - 1.3
		Eval.:

Describe a family scene, including:

- the place
- the objects
- the time
- the people
- the action



SHOW YOUR WORK TO THE TEACHER

<i>900 exercises in vocational communication</i>	Exercise	D3 / 13 - 1.4
		Eval.:

Write the portrait of someone you know well. Describe their physical aspect in detail and their attitudes in the activity (work, study, etc.) they are doing.

SHOW YOUR WORK TO THE TEACHER

<i>900 exercises in vocational communication</i>	Exercise	D3 / 13 - 1.5
		Eval.:

Read these two texts. Fill in the chart using the information given in the texts.

1. At 55, Jean-Paul Belmondo was a very popular cinema and theatre star. He very much enjoyed sport. His ambition was to remain a great star. Young people today still enjoy his action films.

2. Friendly, direct, energetic, Guy Ligier, at 60, cultivates friendship. He still loves sport. In 1976 he started to manufacture Formula 1 cars. Nowadays, his name is associated with car racing. He always hoped to see his cars win.

Name	Jean-Paul Belmondo	Guy Ligier
Age in the description		
Profession		
Likes		
Ambition		
Image in society		

Look at the answers for D3/13-1.5

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Name	Jean-Paul Belmondo	Guy Ligier
Age in the description	55	60
Profession	actor	car manufacturer
Likes	sport	friendship, sport
Ambition	remain a great star	see his cars win races
Image in society	action films	racing cars Ligier cars

<i>900 exercises in vocational communication</i>	Exercise	D3 / 13 - 2.1
		Eval.:

WHAT IS AN EVENT?

An event is something that happens, and that is generally of some importance.

1. Read this short story, taken from a newspaper, then answer the questions that follow.

“On 3rd July last, in Bayswater Street in London, Lucas Drayton, a young man of 28, was shot by an armed policeman, as he was running away, after going the wrong way down a one-way street.”

Questions

- When?
- Where?
- Who?
- What?
- In what circumstances?

THE EXERCISE CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE

2. You are going to write about the same event, but changing the order of the information.

Construct your text by answering the following questions. You can make several sentences.

1. Who? - 2. What? - 3. In what circumstances?

4. Where? 5. When?



3. Write about the same event, starting with the circumstances.



Look at the suggested answers for D3/13-2.1

2. You are going to talk about the same event, but changing the order of the information.

Construct your text by answering the following questions. You can make several sentences.

1. Who? - 2. What? - 3. In what circumstances?
4. Where? 5. When?

Lucas Drayton, a young man of 28, was shot by an armed policeman as he was running away, after going the wrong way down a one-way street. It was in Bayswater Street in London, on 3rd July last.

3. Write about the same event, starting with the circumstances.

As he was running away, after going the wrong way down a one-way street, in Bayswater Street, London, Lucas Drayton, a young man of 28, was shot by an armed policeman. It happened on 3rd July last.

1. Here is some information about an event:

- Where? In Chamonix, France
- When? On 8 August 1986
- Who? Over 200,000 people.
- What? What did they do? They attended a 'son et lumière' show that was given there.

- Why? For the 200th anniversary of the first ascent of Mont Blanc.

2. Relate the event adding the following information:

- First ascent by Jacques Balmat and the doctor, Michel Gabriel Paccard;
- Jacques Balmat was 24, Michel Gabriel Paccard, 27

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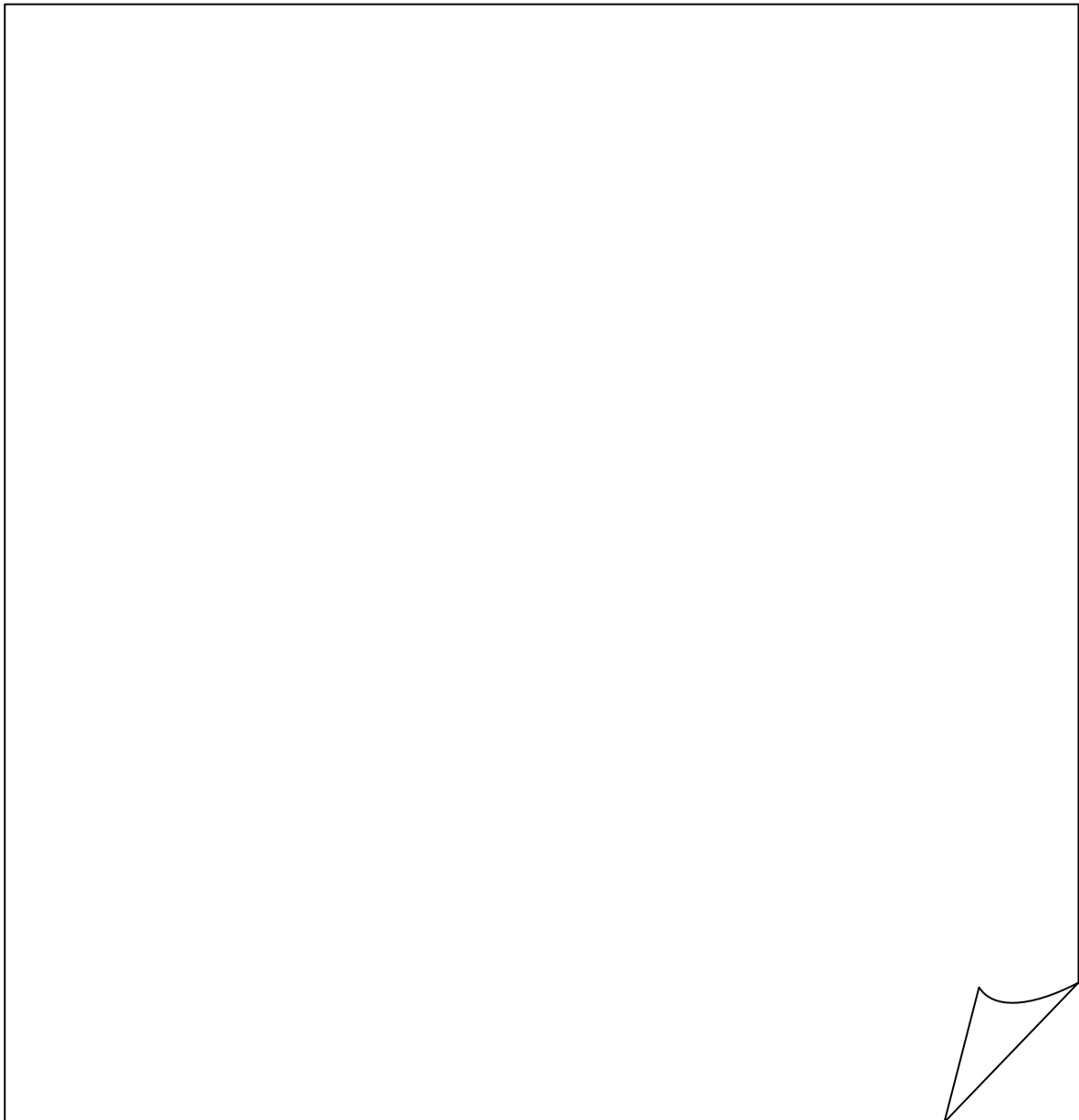
- First ascent by Jacques Balmat and the doctor, Michel Gabriel Paccard;
- Jacques Balmat was 24, Michel Gabriel Paccard, 27

In Chamonix, on August 8th, over 200,000 people attended the 'son et lumière' show given there. This event was to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first ascent of Mont Blanc.

This exploit was achieved by Jacques Balmat and the doctor, Michel Gabriel Paccard. The former was 24 years old and the second 27.

Choose one of the following situations and describe it.
If you are not totally satisfied with your work, choose another situation to describe,
just for practice, and so on.

1. There is an incident at your place of work or study (a machine breakdown, an accident, etc.)
2. A particular event happens in a public place, and you witness it. Describe the situation.
3. There is a change at your place of work or study. Describe the situation.
4. A “new person” arrives at your place of work or in a group you belong to in some way. Describe the situation.



SHOW YOUR WORK TO THE TEACHER

“A risky climb”

That was a headline in a newspaper article. Write about the event using the following information as a guide.

- Where? The marketplace
- When? Saturday morning
- Who? Lucas, aged 8
- What? He fell but did not hurt himself
- In what circumstance? Climbing up a frozen fountain that rose to over 2 m

A large empty rectangular box for writing, with a folded corner at the bottom right.

Look at the suggested answers for D3/13-2.4

“A risky climb”

That was a headline in a newspaper article. Write about the event using the following information as a guide.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| - Where? | The marketplace |
| - When? | Saturday morning |
| - Who? | Lucas, aged 8 |
| - What? | He fell but did not hurt himself |
| - In what circumstance? | Climbing up a frozen fountain that rose to over 2 m |

Last Saturday morning, Lucas, aged 8, was playing with some friends on the marketplace near the fountain. It had been extremely cold all week, and the water had frozen, forming a mountain of ice over the pool. Lucas, fascinated by this curious construction that nature had made, started climbing up this strange edifice. When he was nearly at the top, over 2m high, Lucas slipped and fell into the pool, which was also frozen solid. He was not hurt, but he was very frightened!