



## The Natural World

Informal email: going on a wildlife walk

### 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What wildlife can people see near where you live?
2. What difficulties might occur on a nature walk?
3. Why is exploring nature better with a friend?

#### Exercise 5 at a glance

Write an informal email to a friend.

Cover all the prompts.

Develop ideas with details and reactions.

Use relaxed, natural language.

Make the email flow naturally.

### 2. Exam-style task

You recently went on a guided wildlife walk. You saw something interesting, but the walk became difficult.

Write an email to a friend about it.

In your email you should:

- describe what you saw
- explain why the walk became difficult
- invite your friend to join another wildlife activity

Write about 120 to 160 words.

### 3. Model email

**Subject: Our wildlife walk got rather muddy!**

Hi Nguyen,

How's it going? Have you recovered from your camping trip, or are you still finding sand in everything? Anyway, I joined a wildlife walk by the river on Sunday, and we spotted far more animals than I expected.

We were crossing a wooden bridge when the guide pointed out an otter swimming below us. It disappeared under the water, then popped up beside some reeds with a fish. Seeing one in the wild completely made my day because they are usually hard to spot.

Unfortunately, heavy rain started halfway through the walk. The path became too slippery to continue safely, and one person nearly fell over, so the guide turned us back. By the time we reached the visitor centre, we were soaked to the skin and covered in mud.

There's going to be a birdwatching morning there next month. You should come along if you're free. We can bring waterproof jackets this time and keep an eye out for kingfishers!

Write back soon,

Martina

P.S. My shoes may never be the same again.

## 4. Explore the model: structure, content and tone

Work with the model email. You do not need to copy long answers. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Email structure	Find the subject line, greeting, opening chat, main message, plan and sign-off.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer describe something interesting they saw?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer explain why the walk became difficult?	
Content point 3	Where does the writer invite their friend to another activity?	
Informal audience	Find two places where the email sounds friendly or relaxed, such as a contraction, exclamation mark or chatty phrase.	
Development	Find one extra detail, reason or reaction that improves the answer.	

## 5. Language from the prompts

The prompts can guide your grammar choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful grammar	Why it fits	Example from the model
what the writer saw	past continuous + when	The writer sets the scene before an interesting sighting.	We were crossing... / guide pointed out...
why the walk became difficult	too + adjective + to	The writer explains why continuing was not possible.	too slippery... / so the guide turned...
the invitation to another activity	going to + should	The writer introduces and recommends a future activity.	There's going to be... / You should come along...

## 6. Make it flow

Read the informal linking phrases. Underline one you could use for each purpose.

Job	Useful informal linkers
move into the topic	Anyway, / I joined... / more animals than...
add detail or reaction	when the guide... / then popped up... / because...
introduce a problem	Unfortunately, / halfway through... / so the guide... / By the time...
make a plan	There's going to be... / You should come along... / if you're free / this time

## 7. Vocabulary and useful phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this task. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe wildlife	wildlife walk / otter / beside some reeds / hard to spot	
describe difficulty	heavy rain / slippery path / fell over / covered in mud	
sound informal	How's it going? / popped up / made my day / soaked to the skin	
make a plan	birdwatching morning / next month / come along / keep an eye out	
upgrade with adverbs	completely / usually / unfortunately / nearly / safely	

## 8. Plan your own email

Use the same task, or change the walk to another wildlife or outdoor activity.

Prompt	My idea	Useful language	Link to next part
what I saw			
why it became difficult			
invitation to my friend			
opening / ending			

