

Section 1

#1: "When my pasta arrived, I was excited and got my fork and pick it up. The cheese in the pasta slid into my mouth like lava flowing down."

Strengths:

- You've used a vivid simile comparing the cheese to lava, which helps your reader imagine the experience
- Your excitement comes through clearly in this moment

Sensory Detail Gap → While you mention the cheese sliding, your description jumps quite quickly from picking up the fork to the cheese in your mouth. What happened in between? Did you twirl the pasta? How did it look on the fork? Adding these middle steps would help your reader follow along more smoothly and create a fuller picture of this special moment.

Exemplar: *I excitedly grabbed my fork and twirled it through the creamy pesto pasta. As I lifted it to my mouth, long strings of melted cheese stretched from my plate, sliding onto my tongue like warm, golden lava flowing down a mountainside.*

#2: "It was as hot as the summer sun."

Strengths:

- You're continuing to use comparison to describe your experience
- The image of the summer sun is something readers can relate to

Underdeveloped Comparison → This simile appears right after describing your taste buds exploding, but it's not clear what "it" refers to—the temperature or the flavour? Also, comparing food temperature to the sun is quite general. Can you think about what the heat actually felt like in your mouth? Did it tingle? Burn slightly? Make you breathe out quickly? More specific details about the actual sensation would make this moment more real for your reader.

Exemplar: *The pasta was so hot that it tingled on my tongue, making me blow quick breaths of air to cool it down before I could properly taste the rich, garlicky pesto sauce.*

#3: "Finally, it was the cake cutting time. We gather up at the table sang happy birthday to [me](#). It was the best day of me life."

Strengths:

- You're showing the celebration aspect of your birthday, which is an important part of the story
- You convey your happiness about the day

Missing Transition and Development → The word "Finally" suggests you'd been waiting a long time, but we don't know what happened between eating the pasta and the cake. Did you finish your meal? Chat with your family? This gap makes the story feel rushed. Additionally, you tell us it was "the best day," but you haven't shown us enough special moments or feelings to help readers understand why. What made it better than other birthdays?

Exemplar: *After we'd all finished our meals and the waiter cleared our plates, Mum nodded to the staff. Moments later, they arrived with a chocolate mud cake topped with glowing candles. My family gathered close around the table and sang happy birthday whilst I made a wish and blew out the candles in one big breath.*

■ Your writing captures a happy memory from your 10th birthday, and it's clear this was a meaningful day for you. The strongest part of your piece is when you describe the pasta arriving—you've started to use your senses and comparisons to bring the moment alive. However, your narrative would benefit from slowing down and adding more detail to each part of the experience. Right now, events happen very quickly one after another without much space to develop them. For instance, you jump from ordering to smelling to eating to cake cutting quite rapidly. Try expanding each moment: What did you talk about whilst waiting? How did your family react when the food arrived? What did the restaurant look like and sound like? Also, consider showing us why this was "the best day" rather than just telling us—include specific things your family said or did that made you feel special. Additionally, you could strengthen the ending by describing the car ride home or how you felt as the day ended. Think about the difference between listing what happened versus painting a picture that lets your

reader experience it alongside you. Your story has a good foundation; it just needs more layers of detail to make each moment as vivid as that lava-like cheese!

Overall Score: 37/50

Section 2

Sizzling Pasta

#1 It was my 10th birthday, so my family and I went to a restaurant. We found a table for 4 and sat down. I ordered veg pesto pasta ~~same as~~ [the same as] my sister, but my dad and ~~mum~~ [Mum] ordered an extra-large chicken pizza. As I waited, I smelled the cheesy aroma from other people eating pasta.

#2 When my pasta arrived, I was excited and got my fork and ~~pick~~ [picked] it up. The cheese in the pasta slid into my mouth like lava flowing down. When I took a bite ~~my~~ [, my] taste buds exploded. It was as hot as the summer sun.

#3 Finally, it was ~~the~~ cake cutting time. We ~~gather~~ [gathered] up at the table ~~sang~~ [and sang] happy birthday to me. ~~It~~ [There should be a space here.] It was the best day of ~~me~~ [my] life. The cake was a chocolate mud cake. The cake was so smooth and soft. My family and I got in the car and went home.