

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph "The door creaked as Julia slowly stepped in the cafe door. Inside Lilly was carefully placing the menu and making the shiny cutlery cautiously down trying not to make a dent."

Strengths:

- You've created a nice atmosphere by using sensory details like the creaking door and describing Lilly's careful movements with the cutlery
- Your opening draws readers into the scene immediately by showing action rather than just describing the setting

Awkward sentence construction → The phrase "making the shiny cutlery cautiously down trying not to make a dent" is confusing because "making down" isn't quite right. When you write "trying not to make a dent," this doesn't work well because cutlery doesn't usually make dents in tables. You might mean scratches or marks instead. Also, the word "cautiously" feels a bit out of place in this sentence structure.

Exemplar: *Inside, Lilly was carefully placing the menus and positioning the shiny cutlery gently, trying not to make any scratches.*

#2: Middle section - dialogue and reconnection "What are you going to order?' Julia whispered. 'Maybe Pasta Bolognese.' 'Same, i love Pasta Bolognese!' Soon Lilly realised that they might have a lot in common so they started a giant chat."

Strengths:

- You've shown how the characters reconnect naturally through their shared love of the same food
- The conversation feels realistic for two old friends who are feeling a bit nervous around each other

Underdeveloped emotional depth → Your writing tells us "they started a giant chat" but you don't show us what made this moment special. After five years apart, these friends are reconnecting, which is

quite emotional, but you've jumped past the interesting part. You mention they discovered they work in the same office, which is a big surprise, but Julia just says "I don't know" when asked how they never noticed each other. This is a missed opportunity to explore their feelings of surprise, happiness, or even embarrassment. The dialogue feels quite flat and doesn't capture the excitement two old friends would feel when discovering they've been so close all along.

Exemplar: *Soon Lilly realised they might have more in common than she thought, and they began chatting eagerly. "Wait, you work at Davidson Tower too?" Lilly gasped, nearly dropping her fork. Julia's eyes widened. "On the third floor! How have we been walking past each other for months?"*

#3: Ending paragraph "They went back home and was astonished how that was the best lunch together."

Strengths:

- You've wrapped up the story by showing that the lunch brought them happiness
- The natural imagery earlier (Galahs and Kookaburras) connects nicely to the Australian setting

Subject-verb agreement error and weak conclusion → The phrase "They went back home and was astonished" has a grammar mistake because "they" needs "were" not "was." More importantly, your ending feels rushed and doesn't give the story a satisfying finish. After building up this lovely reunion between old friends, you've told us they were "astonished" rather than showing us their feelings. The phrase "how that was the best lunch together" is also awkwardly worded. Your ending would be stronger if you showed one final moment or thought that captures why this lunch mattered so much to them.

Exemplar: *As they headed home, both Julia and Lilly smiled to themselves, amazed at how easily their friendship had sparked back to life after so many years apart.*

■ Your piece tells a sweet story about two old friends reconnecting, and you've chosen a lovely setting with the café and the spring weather. The basic structure of your narrative works well—you have a beginning, middle, and end. However, your writing would benefit from showing more rather than telling. For example, instead of saying "they started a giant chat," you could show us a few exchanges of their conversation so readers can feel the warmth of their reconnection. Additionally, your dialogue needs more description of how characters speak and feel. When Julia and Lilly discover they work in

the same office, this is a huge moment, but it passes by too quickly without exploring their surprise or excitement. Try expanding the emotional moments in your story—let your readers see the characters' reactions through their facial expressions, body language, or longer responses. Also, watch out for some awkward phrasings like "making the shiny cutlery cautiously down" which need clearer wording. Finally, your ending feels rushed. After spending time building up this reunion, give your readers a more thoughtful conclusion that shows why this lunch was meaningful. Think about adding one more scene or thought that captures the warmth of their renewed friendship.

Overall Score: 39/50

Section 2

~~The door creaked as Julia slowly stepped in the cafe door.~~ [The door creaked as Julia slowly stepped through the café door.] Inside ~~Lilly was carefully placing the menu and making the shiny cutlery cautiously down trying not to make a dent.~~ [, Lilly was carefully placing the menus and positioning the shiny cutlery gently, trying not to leave any marks.] Lilly didn't notice until Julia made a sound.

She looked closely and carefully at Lilly ~~looking~~ [, looking] to see if ~~see~~ [she] would move. "Hello ~~Lilly~~ [, Lilly,]" Julia said quietly.[.]

"You are here 20 ~~min~~ [minutes] early!" ~~se~~ [she] replied with a bit of excitement while inspecting the glass cups.

"Have a seat!"

While Lilly said that ~~it~~ [, it] sounded a bit awkward because the last time they ~~talked~~ [had talked] was in ~~Primary School~~ [primary school], which was 5 years ago. #1 They used to be best friends ~~but~~ [, but] since they went to different ~~high school~~ [high schools,] they never chatted again. Julia stared at the menu like it was a book and didn't talk, [,] Lilly just inspected every single ~~ingredients~~ [ingredient] ~~on~~ [in] each recipe and decided curiously what to order.

"What are you going to order?" Julia whispered.

"Maybe Pasta Bolognese."

"Same, i [. I] love Pasta Bolognese!"

#2 Soon ~~Lilly~~ [, Lilly] ~~realised~~ [realised] that they might have a lot in common~~so~~ [, so] they started a giant chat. Lilly just had to be very organised~~so~~ [, so] she made sure that her pasta was carefully mixed. While she was mixing her pasta and listening to the sharp~~consistent~~ [, consistent] drops of rain~~they~~ [, they] found out they work~~in~~ [at] the same office.

"How did we never notice each other?" Lilly questioned.[.]

~~"I don't know."~~ ["I don't know.]

"Did you submit the group art contest?"

"Yes[.]

~~"which~~ ["Which] one is yours?"

"The one with flowers and animals."

"I loved that one!"

After they had lunch at the ~~Cafe~~ [café,] they walked out~~and wanted to communicate more~~ [. Wanting to stay in touch,] they got each ~~others~~ [other's] phone ~~number~~ [numbers]. The rain had now stopped~~they~~ [. They] heard the door creak again and the ~~Galahs~~ [galahs] and ~~Kookaburras~~ [kookaburras] singing to the beautiful spring weather now that the sun came out~~and~~ [. They] said ~~bye~~ [goodbye] to each other.

"Bye [!]" Lilly yelled.[.]

"See you soon!"

"Hopefully in the office next time!"

"Bye[!]"

#3 ~~They went back home and was astonished how that was the best lunch together.~~ [They went back home and were astonished at how wonderful their lunch together had been.]