

This is a sample of a portion of a student memoir that I copy edited – this is my first run through

Early one morning in January 1967, I was taking a bath at the public bath, when I was astonished to see a lot of hair from my head and eyebrows fall into the basin. It was not long before I restored calmness. I walked along the street with a bitter smile, astonished that, my appearance, had disturbed me even for a moment.

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Comment [KP1]: I would rewrite this sentence so that its meaning is clearer. Perhaps begin with 'nevertheless,' so that the contrast with the previous sentence is sharper.

My radiotherapist told me that I would receive radiation treatment, one more time a week. She explained that, usually, many leucocytes were destroyed by radiation treatment, but my case was different, fast regeneration or strong enough against radiation.

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At that time, I was absorbed in my work to map out a plan for writing about actual conditions in _____ urban families. One morning a friend of mine, Mr. _____, the chief editor of a monthly magazine " _____," visited my sickbed. He was very interested in the data I had on my desk, " Urban Family: Families Exist but not Homes," and commissioned me to submit a manuscript for his magazine. I agreed.

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Comment [KP2]: I would rewrite this – perhaps beginning with "My cells either..."

In those days, a friend, a poet, visited me and helped me in many ways. He accompanied me to the barbershop, coffee shop, and other places, for about a month. I could not go out alone. My appearance was so horrible. Imagine, my miserable face, my head hairless in the back and part of an eyebrow gone, my hollow cheeks with skin burned by radiotherapy. I greatly appreciated Mr. and Mrs. _____'s pure kindness. I bless them. I miss them.

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(I could not find any of the familiar faces that I had seen a week ago in the line of head and neck patients.)

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Comment [KP3]: Do you want to develop this thought into a paragraph? It seems that it could be a good transition between the paragraph above and the paragraph following

I lost weight noticeably in the next few days. My weight dropped from 60 to 45 kilograms for last one month. I lost the sense of taste and smell. I felt a taste like that of a of persimmon from almost every kind of food. Salty and hot foods especially gave me unbearable pain in my mouth. In those days, a professor, my wife's respected, an editorial writer at _____, invited us to a _____ restaurant. He wanted to treat us to _____ and we agreed. I ate some without making any facial expression, but, in reality,

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Comment [KP4]: Do you mean "in one month?"

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Comment [KP5]: Do you mean: "whom my wife respected?"

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I suffered a pain like biting my tongue.

The doctor told me that my gustatory nerves (buds) had been paralyzed by radiation shocks. My nasal mucous membrane was also destroyed and my olfactory nerves were benumbed. (Even today, my nasal and throat mucous membranes, destroyed by cobalt radiation, have never revived.) "You have to take food, even though A spoon of food with a bottle of digestive" he emphasized eating regular food. My wife tried various foods to make me eat. Though I was ready to accept my death, I was really ashamed that I could not endure my painful tongue. I was mentally exhausted. My wife recognized that I could eat honey and she prepared it. I ate it; no, rather, at every mealtime, I was forced to eat a cup of native honey by my wife.

Comment [KP6]: Do you mean the taste buds on your tongue?

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Comment [KP7]: This is another good place for a transition word – perhaps "however" I am not sure that you should use a direct quotation here, although it is more effective than indirect language. Let's talk about this sentence.

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Comment [KP8]: Another spot for a transition word or phrase perhaps "Fortunately,"

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And up to the present, the mucous membranes of nasal and throat destroyed by cobalt

radiation could not be revived.

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