Understanding ideas

1 Tick what you want to include in your diary about your first day at senior high.

- ☐ the school campus
- ☐ school subjects
- ☐ a new timetable
- ☐ new teachers
- ☐ new friends
- ☐ your feelings
- ☐ an embarrassing moment
- ☐ other

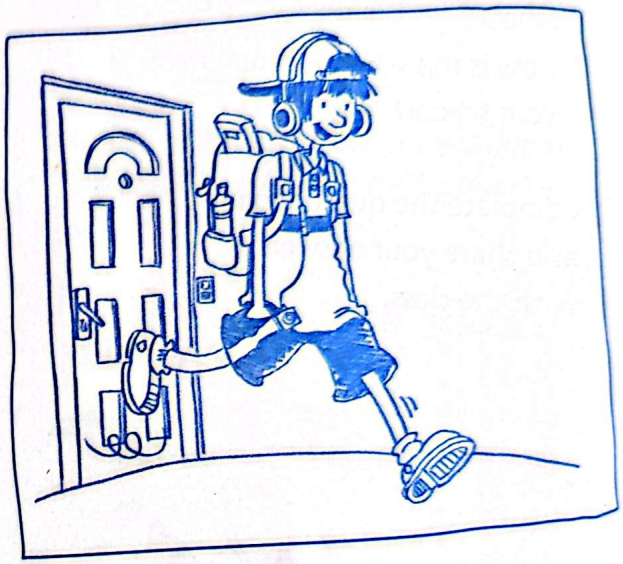
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2 Read the passage and find out what the author wrote in his diary about his first day at senior high.

My First Day at Senior High



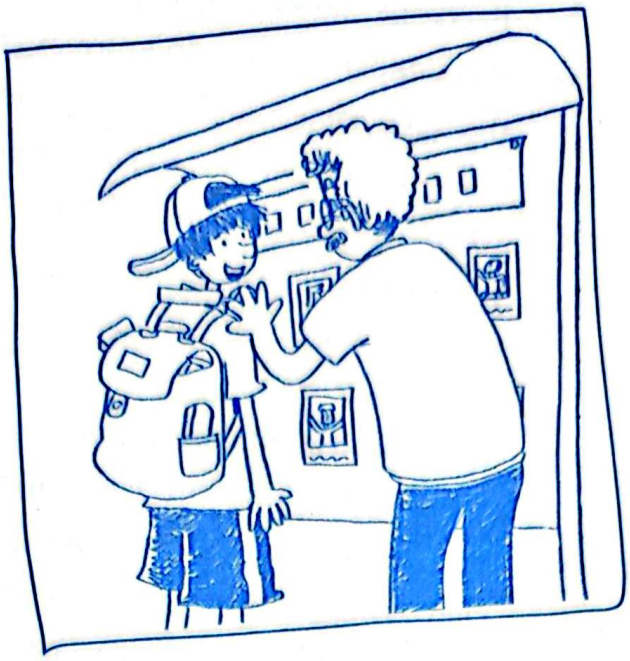
1 After I had pictured it over and over again in my mind, the big day finally arrived: my first day at senior high! I woke up early and rushed out of the door in my eagerness to get to know my new school.

2 The campus was still quiet when I arrived, so I decided to explore a bit. I was looking at the photos on the noticeboard when I heard a voice behind me. "New here?" Turning around, I saw a white-haired man.

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Monday 4 September





"Yes," I replied. "I'm wondering what life is going to be like here." "Don't worry," he gave me a smile. "You'll soon find out."

3 How true these words were! When my English teacher stepped into the classroom, I was surprised to see the same man I had met earlier.

4 "Good morning, everyone. Before we start, please come to the front one by one and introduce yourself to the class. I'll go first..."

5 "What?!" I tried to turn on my brain but the engine just wouldn't start. "I should say my name, of course. But what else? What could I say to make a good first impression? Something about my insect collection, perhaps." I was organising my words in my head when the girl next to me gave me a nudge. "It's your turn!"

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6 With butterflies in my stomach, I breathed deeply. "Hi, I'm Meng Hao." Everyone started laughing. I looked at them in panic. "Nice to know we share the same name," said my new teacher. I had been too nervous to pay attention when he introduced himself! Although I was embarrassed, his words made me a lot more relaxed!

7 When we had all introduced ourselves, Mr Meng said, "Well done, everyone! I know this isn't easy for many of you. But this is just the kind of thing you are going to face at senior high. Challenges like this might sometimes put you under pressure. But it all depends on what you do. Keep calm and be prepared. That way, you'll make the most of your time at senior high."

8 People say, "Well begun, half done." I guess this was a good beginning to my new school life.

3 Choose the best description of Meng Hao's first day at senior high.

1 He found the English class difficult and was not sure what to do.
2 With the English teacher's support, he thought senior high was easy and felt confident about his future.
3 He was not sure about life at senior high, but after the English class, he felt more confident.

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4 Complete Meng Hao's experiences with expressions from the passage.

Meng Hao's experiences	Meng Hao's feelings
Before going to school Because it was Meng Hao's first day at [1]_____, he got up early and [2]_____ to his new school.	excited: woke up early; rushed out of the door
Arriving at school The campus was still quiet, so Meng Hao decided to [3]_____. He met a man who he [4]_____ find out later was his English teacher.	
During the English class Meng Hao was nervous about introducing himself in front of the class. With [5]_____, he began, but everyone laughed. It turned out that he and his teacher shared [6]_____. Mr Meng said that challenges at senior high might put them [7]_____. He advised everyone to [8]_____ and [9]_____.	
After the English class Meng Hao thought he had [10]_____ to his new school life.	

Now find expressions that show Meng Hao's feelings and complete the table.

Think Share

1 What is your understanding of the saying "Well begun, half done"?
2 What happened on your first day at senior high? Share your experiences and feelings with the class.

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