

338 Open When Letter Ideas

Tick the moments that fit the person you are writing to. Four to six is plenty for a first set.

Long Distance Relationships

- ☐ Open when you miss me
- ☐ Open when you can't sleep
- ☐ Open when the time difference is brutal
- ☐ Open the night before you fly to see me
- ☐ Open the night after I leave
- ☐ Open when you doubt this is going to work
- ☐ Open when something amazing happens and I'm not there
- ☐ Open on our anniversary apart
- ☐ Open when you need to hear my voice
- ☐ Open when what you miss most is being held
- ☐ Open when you forget I'm still choosing you
- ☐ Open when you're heading back out after a day home
- ☐ Open on a night we don't call
- ☐ Open when we finally meet and the first few minutes are awkward
- ☐ Open the morning after the airport
- ☐ Open on a week you dread our call
- ☐ Open when someone asks which one of us is moving

You Miss Me

- ☐ Open when you miss me at night
- ☐ Open when you miss me at the airport
- ☐ Open when you miss me in the morning
- ☐ Open when you miss me during something you used to do together
- ☐ Open when you miss me and you can't sleep
- ☐ Open when you miss me and the weather changes
- ☐ Open when you miss me on a holiday I'm not there for
- ☐ Open when you miss me but don't want to call

You're Homesick

- ☐ Open when you're homesick
- ☐ Open the day you land, when it suddenly feels real
- ☐ Open when the new place doesn't feel like yours yet
- ☐ Open when you miss the noise of this house
- ☐ Open when you've had a bad week somewhere far away
- ☐ Open when everyone else seems to have settled in
- ☐ Open when you're missing the dog more than any of us
- ☐ Open on your first Sunday there
- ☐ Open when it's your first winter there
- ☐ Open when you're thinking of coming back early
- ☐ Open when you need to hear that home is still standing
- ☐ Open the night before you come home to visit
- ☐ Open when you visit home and it doesn't feel the same
- ☐ Open when you're celebrating and I'm not there
- ☐ Open when you miss home and I'm the reason you left it

Deployment

- ☐ Open when you miss home
- ☐ Open when you've had a bad day
- ☐ Open when you need to laugh at something stupid
- ☐ Open on our anniversary
- ☐ Open on your birthday
- ☐ Open when you're proud of yourself and no one's around to tell
- ☐ Open when it's only been a few weeks and the rest feels impossible
- ☐ Open when the halfway point arrives
- ☐ Open when the kids do something new and you weren't there to see it
- ☐ Open when you've done every bedtime alone and you're running on empty
- ☐ Open when you need to remember what you're coming back to
- ☐ Open the week before you come home
- ☐ Open when you're home and it still feels hard
- ☐ Open when you haven't heard from me in a while
- ☐ Open when the homecoming date moves again
- ☐ Open when something breaks the day I leave
- ☐ Open when we just hung up and the house went quiet

a Partner Who Travels for Work

- ☐ Open when you just pulled out of the driveway
- ☐ Open on your first night in the hotel
- ☐ Open when we only got 24 hours this time
- ☐ Open when you can't sleep somewhere that isn't home
- ☐ Open when you're halfway through the rotation
- ☐ Open when there's no signal and you want to hear from me
- ☐ Open when the flight home is delayed
- ☐ Open when the roster changes and you miss something
- ☐ Open when work means missing a birthday
- ☐ Open when the kids ask when you're back
- ☐ Open when you're home alone and I'm the one leaving
- ☐ Open when you're home and I can tell you how hard it was

Basic Training

- ☐ Open the night I ship out
- ☐ Open after my first call from basic
- ☐ Open when you haven't heard from me all week
- ☐ Open when the first call sounded bad
- ☐ Open when people ask how I'm doing and you don't know
- ☐ Open at the halfway point
- ☐ Open when you're writing me a letter and don't know what to say
- ☐ Open on a day you need to hear my voice
- ☐ Open the week before graduation
- ☐ Open on graduation day
- ☐ Open when you get your phone back
- ☐ Open when we made it through basic

a Missionary

- ☐ Open on your first night in the field
- ☐ Open when the language won't come
- ☐ Open when no one wanted to listen today
- ☐ Open when you and your companion aren't getting along
- ☐ Open on transfer day
- ☐ Open on your birthday away from home
- ☐ Open on Christmas in the field
- ☐ Open when you wonder if it's worth it
- ☐ Open in your last week
- ☐ Open on the flight home

Christmas Far From Home

- ☐ Open on Noche Buena
- ☐ Open on Christmas morning
- ☐ Open when you wish I was home
- ☐ Open when the box arrives
- ☐ Open when you are working on Christmas Day
- ☐ Open when the video call cuts out
- ☐ Open when you see the family photo without me
- ☐ Open when the kids ask when I am coming home
- ☐ Open on New Year's Eve, still far apart
- ☐ Open when you finally come home

You're Sad

- ☐ Open when you're sad for no reason
- ☐ Open when you're sad and don't want to call
- ☐ Open when you're sad after a long week
- ☐ Open when you're crying and don't know why
- ☐ Open when you're sad on a Sunday
- ☐ Open when you're sad and tired at the same time
- ☐ Open when you're sad and someone else needs you to be okay
- ☐ Open when you're sad about something specific
- ☐ Open when you're sad and the sadness feels old
- ☐ Open when you're sad and the night is loud

You're Having a Bad Day

- ☐ Open when nothing has gone right today
- ☐ Open when you're crying and you don't fully know why
- ☐ Open when you feel like you're failing at everything
- ☐ Open when someone was unkind to you
- ☐ Open when you're too tired to explain it to anyone
- ☐ Open when you need to hear it's not just you
- ☐ Open when you want to quit something today
- ☐ Open when the small things all went wrong at once
- ☐ Open when you need a reason to keep going

You're Stressed or Overwhelmed

- ☐ Open when your to-do list is longer than the day
- ☐ Open when your chest feels tight and you can't slow down
- ☐ Open the night before the big exam
- ☐ Open when you're about to spiral about everything at once
- ☐ Open when you've forgotten to eat because you're so busy
- ☐ Open when you feel like you're letting everyone down
- ☐ Open when you need permission to stop for five minutes
- ☐ Open when the deadline is winning
- ☐ Open when you can't remember the last time you rested

You Need a Laugh

- ☐ Open when you need to laugh instead of cry
- ☐ Open when you're bored out of your mind
- ☐ Open when you need proof we're both ridiculous
- ☐ Open when you're taking yourself too seriously
- ☐ Open when you need our dumbest memory in writing
- ☐ Open when you want to feel eight years old again
- ☐ Open when the meeting is unbearable and you're texting me under the table
- ☐ Open when you forgot how funny we are
- ☐ Open when you need a reason to roll your eyes at me

You Can't Sleep

- ☐ Open when your brain won't stop
- ☐ Open when it's 3 a.m. and everything feels bigger
- ☐ Open when you're anxious about tomorrow
- ☐ Open when you're overthinking something I said
- ☐ Open when you wake up and can't get back down
- ☐ Open when the house is too quiet
- ☐ Open when you're on the night shift and missing everyone
- ☐ Open when you need to hear a calm voice
- ☐ Open when you just need to get to morning

You're Angry With Me

- ☐ Open when you're angry with me
- ☐ Open when I've gone quiet again
- ☐ Open when we've had the same fight twice
- ☐ Open when you need space and I'm being too much
- ☐ Open when I said the wrong thing
- ☐ Open when you're not ready to talk yet
- ☐ Open when you want to walk away
- ☐ Open when you're angry at everything and I'm just nearest
- ☐ Open after the argument, before the apology
- ☐ Open when you need to remember why we do this

You're Sick

- ☐ Open when you're sick
- ☐ Open when you're stuck in bed and bored out of your mind
- ☐ Open when the appointment didn't go how you hoped
- ☐ Open when you're sick of being asked how you are
- ☐ Open when it's a hospital night
- ☐ Open when you feel like a burden (you're not)
- ☐ Open when you need something completely unserious
- ☐ Open when you're starting to feel better
- ☐ Open when recovery is slower than you expected
- ☐ Open when you just want to be treated like a normal person

Your Anniversary

- ☐ Open on our anniversary morning
- ☐ Open the night of our anniversary
- ☐ Open one year from today
- ☐ Open on our first anniversary apart
- ☐ Open when you're missing the version of us from year one
- ☐ Open when you wonder if I still choose this
- ☐ Open when our anniversary falls during a hard week
- ☐ Open on the anniversary of the day we met

a Wedding Day

- ☐ Open while you are getting ready
- ☐ Open before you walk down

- ☐ Open when the day is over
- ☐ Open on the morning of your wedding, from your mum
- ☐ Open when you have your first real fight

- ☐ Open on your first anniversary
- ☐ Open when you wonder if we noticed
- ☐ Open when the photos come back and it already feels far away

Birthday

- ☐ Open on your birthday morning
- ☐ Open the night of your birthday
- ☐ Open when you wake up on your birthday
- ☐ Open when the birthday celebration is over
- ☐ Open on your first birthday apart from me

- ☐ Open when you're feeling old on your birthday
- ☐ Open when nobody else remembered
- ☐ Open on your birthday and you don't want to celebrate

You Graduate

- ☐ Open on graduation morning
- ☐ Open the night of graduation
- ☐ Open the day you move into your first apartment
- ☐ Open your first morning at the new job
- ☐ Open six months in, when it stops feeling new

- ☐ Open when you doubt this was the right path
- ☐ Open the day you miss the old version of yourself
- ☐ Open the first time you have a really good day at the new thing

Going to College

- ☐ Open the night before a hard exam
- ☐ Open when you got a bad grade
- ☐ Open when you miss your bed
- ☐ Open when you fight with a roommate
- ☐ Open when you doubt you belong here
- ☐ Open the Sunday before finals

- ☐ Open when you're tired and homesick at the same time
- ☐ Open when something amazing happens and you want to tell me
- ☐ Open the night before you come home for break

the New Year

- ☐ What you hope this year holds for them, stated small and specific
- ☐ A reminder of a hard year they already survived
- ☐ Something to read on the week the resolutions collapse
- ☐ What you would want them to remember on 31 December
- ☐ A prediction — sealed now, checked in twelve months
- ☐ The thing you want them to stop being hard on themselves about
- ☐ A letter to your own future self, opened next New Year's Eve

Diwali

- ☐ Who you lit a lamp for this year
- ☐ What you hope the next year is quieter about
- ☐ A memory of a Diwali that went wrong and became the story
- ☐ What you would say if they were sitting on the same ledge
- ☐ Permission to leave last year behind
- ☐ The thing you never say because everyone is busy cooking

You Get Your Results

- ☐ Open when you get your results
- ☐ Open the night before results
- ☐ Open when you pass
- ☐ Open when you see your name on the list
- ☐ Open when it didn't go the way you hoped
- ☐ Open when everyone is asking about your marks
- ☐ Open when you have to decide what's next
- ☐ Open when you get into your first choice
- ☐ Open when you need to retake it

Open on Christmas Morning

- ☐ Open on Christmas Eve, after everyone is asleep
- ☐ Open before you open your presents
- ☐ Open when you find this in your stocking
- ☐ Open when the house goes quiet after dinner
- ☐ Open when the family drives you a little crazy
- ☐ Open when you remember last Christmas

- ☐ Open when you are the last one awake on Christmas night
- ☐ Open on Christmas morning, from Mom and Dad

- ☐ Open when you miss the Christmases at Grandma's

Thanksgiving

- ☐ Open on Thanksgiving morning
- ☐ Open at Friendsgiving
- ☐ Open when everyone goes around the table
- ☐ Open after the dishes are done

- ☐ Open when you are the one who hosted again
- ☐ Open when you cannot make it home for Thanksgiving
- ☐ Open when you need a reason to be thankful this year

Your Boyfriend

- ☐ Open when you've had a long day at work
- ☐ Open when you doubt yourself
- ☐ Open when you feel like you're messing up
- ☐ Open when you're mad at me (and I'm not wrong)

- ☐ Open when you need to remember why we work
- ☐ Open when you're drunk and need to be reminded I love you

Your Girlfriend

- ☐ Open when you feel loved
- ☐ Open when you need courage
- ☐ Open when you feel small

- ☐ Open when your family is being a lot
- ☐ Open the morning of a hard day
- ☐ Open when you're falling out of love with yourself

Your Husband

- ☐ Open when you're traveling for work
- ☐ Open when the year has been a lot
- ☐ Open on the morning of a hard day

- ☐ Open when we're going through a quiet stretch
- ☐ Open ten years from now

Your Wife

- ☐ Open when you miss me while I'm away
- ☐ Open when you've had a brutal day
- ☐ Open when you doubt how much I see you
- ☐ Open when you feel more like a parent than a partner
- ☐ Open when you need to remember the beginning
- ☐ Open when I've annoyed you and you need proof I'm worth it
- ☐ Open when you can't sleep and I'm already out
- ☐ Open when you forget you're still the one I'd choose

Your Best Friend

- ☐ Open when you're having a bad day
- ☐ Open when you need a laugh
- ☐ Open when you forget how amazing you are
- ☐ Open when you're overthinking him/her
- ☐ Open when you're mad at yourself
- ☐ Open when you need to be reminded who you are
- ☐ Open when life is happening at you
- ☐ Open when you need a sign
- ☐ Open when you're drunk and need to NOT text them

Your Mom

- ☐ Open when you're having a hard day
- ☐ Open when you feel unappreciated
- ☐ Open when you wonder if you did a good job raising me
- ☐ Open when you need to hear thank you
- ☐ Open when you forget how much you're loved
- ☐ Open on Mother's Day
- ☐ Open when the house feels too quiet

Your Dad

- ☐ Open when you need to hear you did a good job
- ☐ Open when you feel taken for granted
- ☐ Open when you're proud of me but won't say it — so I'll say it first
- ☐ Open when you forget how much you taught me
- ☐ Open on Father's Day
- ☐ Open when you wonder if it was all worth it

Your Sister

- ☐ Open when you need to hear it from me and not from Mum
- ☐ Open when you're having a terrible week
- ☐ Open when you move into your first place
- ☐ Open the night before something you're dreading
- ☐ Open when a relationship ends
- ☐ Open when you're being too hard on yourself
- ☐ Open when we've fallen out over something stupid
- ☐ Open when you need reminding what you were like at fourteen
- ☐ Open when you're proud of something and being weird about admitting it

Friendship Day

- ☐ The moment you decided they were a real friend, not just someone you knew
- ☐ A specific thing they did for you that they have almost certainly forgotten
- ☐ The running joke neither of you can explain to anyone else
- ☐ What you would say about them if they left the room
- ☐ The thing you admire about them that you have never said to their face
- ☐ A time they were right and you were wrong
- ☐ Something you want them to read on a week when they feel unimpressive
- ☐ Why the gaps between calls have never counted against them

Your Brother

- ☐ The thing you admire about him that you have exclusively expressed as mockery
- ☐ A memory only the two of you were present for
- ☐ What you would say about him to someone who had never met him
- ☐ The moment you realised he had turned out well
- ☐ Something you got wrong about him and later corrected
- ☐ A time he handled something you are not sure you could have
- ☐ What you want him to read on a week where he feels behind
- ☐ The thing you would say if you were both far better at this

Grandma and Grandpa

- ☐ A story they told you that you now tell other people
- ☐ Something about yourself you can trace directly back to them
- ☐ What their house smelled like, sounded like, felt like to arrive at
- ☐ A thing they taught you without meaning to teach anything
- ☐ The advice of theirs you ignored and later used
- ☐ What you would want them to know about how your life turned out
- ☐ Plain thanks, unhedged, for something specific

Thank You Letters for a Teacher

- ☐ The specific thing they said that you still use
- ☐ What you went on to do, and where their fingerprints are on it
- ☐ A moment they were kind to you that they probably registered as nothing
- ☐ The subject you were sure you were bad at until their class
- ☐ How they explained something that finally made it click
- ☐ What you were like then, and what you are like now
- ☐ Plain thanks, years late, with no apology for the delay

Raksha Bandhan

- ☐ One specific memory only the two of you have
- ☐ The thing you have never thanked them for
- ☐ What you would say if they called you at 3am
- ☐ A promise that outlasts the thread
- ☐ The joke you have been repeating since childhood
- ☐ Something honest you would never say face to face

Write it tonight. They open it at the right moment.

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