

How can I manipulate sentences for effect?



A **simple sentence** consists of only one clause—there is one completed action.

The cat sat on the mat.

A **compound sentence** consists of two or more independent clauses.

The cat sat on the mat and the dog sat on the safe.

A **complex sentence** has at least one independent clause plus at least one dependent clause, this means that the meaning of the second clause is reliant on the main clause.

The dog sat on the sofa because he was the family's favourite pet.

A paragraph from a response to the task: Describe an event on a summer holiday.

It was the first day of the summer holidays. I felt free. My parents were still working. I had the house to myself. I didn't have any work to do. I had free reign of Netflix. My brother had also got himself a part time job. I was going to have the very best day. My peace was suddenly disturbed by a knock at the door.

Task:

The above paragraph only uses simple sentences—play around with the sentences to create a range of simple, compound and complex sentence

Getting started

Many students find it difficult to start their non-fiction writing response.

Here are a number of possible sentence stems you could use to start your creative piece:

Start with a verb phrase : Running away.... Peering through the crack.... Jumping down from the table....

It can be any action, but try to make it engaging (tip: 'Waking up' is overused)

Start with an adjectival phrase: Her long, dark, silky hair was always something I envied.....Hot, slimy, orange liquid oozed from the graze on my knee.....

Start with a subordinate conjunction: Because it was Thursday, I knew that my mum wouldn't be home.....Even though I knew it was wrong, I knocked on the door and ran away.....As well as being smart, I was always quite devious.

Task:

Think about which of these may be most effective in your response.

⇒ Write the opening sentence.

⇒ Annotate the sentence to show what effect you think it will have on your reader.

Write a description of an event on a summer holiday.



Now complete the task above:

- You will need to plan your response.
- Think about what sentence types you will use in the opening of your description.
- Consider how to vary the sentences throughout your response to show variety and creativity.
- Try to use one of the sentence stems discussed in the video.

Use this space to plan before writing your response: