

# Sentence structures

## 1 Add some complexity

Re-write these extracts, changing the sentence structure to make them more powerful and coherent.

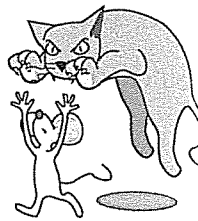
- a** I am very excited. I am going on holiday to America tomorrow. My whole family are going. What's really good is that I am allowed to take my best friend.

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- b** Cats are natural predators. When they see a bird or mouse it just means excitement to them. Sometimes they kill without the desire to eat their prey. Some cats can be shocked when they catch something.



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## 2 Watch the length

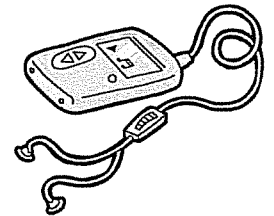
These sentences are out of control. Re-write them, putting in punctuation to make the meaning clearer.

- a** The market was full of exciting smells and colours and noises and people and new things.

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- b** Music can create the atmosphere you need to learn and it can even help you to remember ideas because when you come to revise you can listen to the same music and it will help you to recall the original idea because your memory has made a link.



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### 3 Zoom into the action

Look at this sentence:

In the shadows, under the stairs, resting against the chair was a bloody knife.

The reader is taken closer and closer to the really important discovery of the knife by the phrases that start the sentence.

Complete these sentences to zoom your reader into the action!

- a** At the end of the garden, beyond the tree was \_\_\_\_\_ .
- b** In the car, sitting quietly as directed, \_\_\_\_\_ .
- c** In the corner of the room, \_\_\_\_\_ .  
\_\_\_\_\_ .
- d** Under the floorboards, \_\_\_\_\_ .  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

### 4 Add layers of meaning

A complex sentence has a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses:

They ate chocolates greedily, until they felt sick.

The main clause, 'They ate chocolates greedily' can be understood by itself but the subordinate clause, 'until they felt sick' doesn't make sense by itself.

Underline the main clause in red and the subordinate clause in blue, in these sentences.

- a** I hid under the duvet shaking, as the storm raged outside.
- b** Claire, who was filled with a sense of relief, left the stage.
- c** Until the power cut hit, Paul refused to leave his computer.

Re-write these as complex sentences. You might choose to put the subordinate clause at the beginning, in the middle or at the end.

- d** Sally loved the book. She missed her bus because she was reading it. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e** The computer finally died. It had been used non-stop. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f** Amanda bought some new pink shoes. She loved shopping. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Paragraphs and structure

- 1 Read this extract and mark where the paragraphs should go. You might want to change the order.

When you first see my house you might think it's a bit dull and dingy because there are plants growing up the front wall and the path is a bit overgrown. I like to think this adds character and makes it more exciting when you come and visit me. If I trust you, and the others say it's OK, I might take you to the end of the garden to see our den. It's taken us years to create it and it's simply the best place to be in the summer. Once you are in you'll probably be drawn into the kitchen as there's generally something good cooking and that's where we tend to be. It's funny really, as it's the smallest room in the house but it's where we spend our time together. (Well, not the smallest, but you wouldn't all sit round the bathroom to talk about the day, would you?) Stepping through the front door for the first time is normally a bit of a shock because we've painted the inside really bright colours. The woodwork (that's the doors and skirting boards) is pink and the walls are purple. My gran hates it, but we sat down and made a family decision so it's fine by us.

- 2** You also need to start new paragraphs when there's a new speaker. Mark the paragraph breaks in this extract with a forward slash (/).

“Look, I’m really sorry,” said Barry with frustration, “but this is just not going to work and that’s an end to it.” He threw down the play script and stood up to go. Laura looked up at him. “I’m really sorry as well,” she said with sarcasm, “I’m really sorry that we’ve wasted so much time rehearsing with you in the lead role when we could have had Lance. He would at least have listened to our ideas.” “That’s just typical,” replied Barry, “and that’s why I’m leaving. You’ve never wanted me in this stupid play. Well, if you think Lance will have anything to do with you when he hears how you’ve treated me you’ve got another think coming!” The rest of the cast sat watching with amazement as he coolly collected his jacket and walked out of the rehearsal room. Laura sat stunned. “Did that really just happen?” she asked, “Did we finally get rid of that idiot?” “Yes!” shouted Sian with joy. “Well done, you finally did it!”

- 3** Choose the appropriate connectives from the list and add them to the recipe below.

Next

Finally

Then

Secondly

Firstly

- \_\_\_\_\_ pre-heat the oven to 180°.
- \_\_\_\_\_ take your vegetables and chop them into 1 cm size cubes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ lightly oil the baking tray and arrange the vegetables on it so they are evenly spaced.
- \_\_\_\_\_ put the tray in the oven and set the timer to 40 minutes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ remove the vegetables from the oven and enjoy!