

Sentence Building

Writing Better Sentences

Exercise #1:

Adding Detail: One of the most common problems with sentences is that they just don't tell the reader enough or give enough detail so that the reader feels informed and edified after reading the sentence. In the same way that any writing piece should always cover who/what/when/where/why, so should sentences—whenever possible. In many cases, this information might be in the sentence before or after, but it is certainly good practice to incorporate who/what/when/where/why into your sentences.

Below are two simple rules for helping to make your sentences more informative, detailed, and interesting to your readers.

Prompt: Write five sentences **that include at least three** of the who? what? when? where? and why? Details. The order of who/what/when/where/why is not important. Put the details (who, etc) within parentheses in bold.

e.g. The young soldier struggled all night (**when**) through the jungle (**where**) to reach his base camp before the enemy could reach him (**why**).

Post these sentences in the dropbox for this assignment.

1. Put your sentence here
2. Put your sentence here
3. Put your sentence here
4. Put your sentence here
5. Put your sentence here

Exercise #2:

Adding Imagery and Action: It is our job as writers to spark our readers' imaginations! A lot of writers forget that their readers are not "in their heads." The readers can't "see" anything that is not "specifically" described. Simply saying, "It was a cold day" can mean something completely different depending on the time of year or place on the planet. So, as you write, be conscious of your readers, and be sure to give them the needed imagery and actions to make your thoughts become more real to your readers.

Use specific imagery and actions to make these sentences more image rich.

- **e.g. Ginny ran into the house.** Ginny ran into the house like she was late for a date. (I used a simile to create an image)
- **e.g. The red car pulled out of the driveway.** The classic red Mustang convertible squealed out of the driveway and onto Birch Street. (I added descriptive adjectives and more detailed images and action.)

Now do the same for these sentences:

Post these sentences in the dropbox for this assignment.

1. The tree fell in the woods.
2. The plane flew through the sky
3. I am not feeling well today.
4. The baseball game was fun.
5. I like ice cream.