

SENIOR WRITING: Effective Writing IMPROVING SENTENCES

Some sentences need more detail:

The dog played with his toy.

The miniature black poodle chased his soccer ball across the yard.

Create your own based on the first sentence.

Some sentences need to be rearranged to emphasize detail:

- The miniature black poodle chased his soccer ball and barked at it.

Chasing his soccer ball across the yard, the miniature black poodle barked at it when it got away from him.

OR

Barking at the soccer ball, the miniature black poodle chased it around the yard.

- The waves crashed on the beach; the children played on the beach.

Rewrite two different versions of the above sentences. (Hint: Use a word like 'while,' 'when,' or 'as' to perhaps start one of them.)

- Basketball is a popular high school sport. It attracts large crowds.

Basketball, a popular high school sport, attracts large crowds.

OR

Because basketball is a popular high school sport, it attracts large crowds.

Some sentences need a variety of arrangement and/or combinations to make a paragraph read better:

- My brother likes to sail. My brother is married and has two children, two cats, and two dogs. My brother's name is Mike. Mike likes to ski in the winter.

My brother Mike is married and has two children, two cats, and two dogs, one they just rescued from a shelter. He likes outdoor sports, especially sailing in the summer and skiing in the winter.

SENIOR WRITING
IMPROVING SENTENCES ASSIGNMENT

PART I: Rewrite the following sentences making them more specific by adding detail.
(Hint: You'll have to make up the details to add.)

1. The child walked home.
2. School is cold today.
3. The movie was good.

PART II: Rewrite the following sentences in a different way, practicing sentence variety. You may also add detail.

4. Sliding across the ice, the little old man looked as if he were about to fall.
5. Because my car wouldn't start, I was late to work on my first day.
6. I drove to the store to pick up a couple things for my mom, and then I stopped to pick up my sister from practice on my way home.

PART III: Rewrite the following paragraph in order to improve its flow, sound, and meaning.

7. Grandma's shadow box contained symbols of the things she loved. It was light and airy. It was filled with vines and other plants. It also contained many small figurines and a few large ones. It had a large photo-cube in the center section. The photo-cube contained pictures of everyone in the family.

PART IV: Combining sentences – Rewrite the following groups of sentences, combining them into one well-written sentence.

8. Dental assisting is an important and helpful job. It can lead to advanced dentistry.

9. I look down the tree-lined street of my hometown in France. I feel as if I no longer belong.

10. Passengers board the airplane. The flight attendants greet and help them find their seats.

11. Camping appears to be all fun and games. It requires hard work.

12. The sleepy sun lies down to rest behind the snowy mountains. Its lazy, warm glow enhances the unadorned beauty of the wilderness.

13. I slowly and cautiously opened the creaky old door of dull mahogany. There was a faint, musty breeze. It quietly lured me into the cold, still grayness of the forgotten room.

14. I slowly eat my lunch. It consists of diet pop and carrot sticks. I try to persuade myself to stay away from the snack counters and machines.

15. The children were playing hide-and-seek along the roadside. They were wearing heavy home-spun clothes. This clothing was protecting them from the slight chill.