

# Simply Simple Sentences

## WRITE A SIMPLE SENTENCE

This strategy can help:

- improve understanding of expectations
- boost writing confidence

The simple sentence is the foundation upon which all writing is built. When a writer confidently creates the most fundamental writing structure for prose, the elaboration and creativity will flow more easily. Help your writer understand and utilize these five traits. This concrete knowledge is particularly helpful for beginning, struggling, and ESL writers.

There are five important aspects of every simple sentence.

**1. First Letter Capitalization**

Have you let the reader know that new information is heading her way by capitalizing the first letter of the sentence? This helps the reader understand a new thought is beginning.

**2. Subject (noun)**

Who [magician, detective, ballerina] or what [dragon, train, freedom] is the sentence about?

**3. Action or State of Being (predicate)**

A. Is something physically [run, swim, eat] or mentally [think, imagine, wonder] happening in the sentence?

B. Is the subject "existing" [is, were, are]?

**4. End Punctuation**

Would you like your reader to wonder? Use a question mark(?). Would you like your reader to gain more information? Use a period (.). Would you like your

reader

to feel excited? Use an exclamation point(!).

**5. Sense**

Based on the type of story you are writing, does your sentence make sense?

## **Guidance:**

Who or what is your sentence about?

What is happening in your sentence?

Do you want me to feel excited or curious when I read this sentence? If so, which end punctuation do you use?

When you read your sentence aloud, does it 'say' what you want ?

When you read your sentence, does it make sense?

How do I know you have started a new thought? Think about capitalization and end punctuation.

**Samples:**

She slides!

1 2 3 4 5

He sings.

1 2 3 4 5

**Enhanced Simple Sentences:**

She quickly slides down the river bank!

1 2 3 4 5

Softly, he sings the lullaby.

1 2 3 4 5