

Quick Writing Skills Recap

You need:

- Capital letters at the start of sentences.
- Capital letters for the names of people, countries/towns/cities (frequent proper nouns).
- Full stops at the end of each sentence.
- Clear paragraphs.
- Appropriate punctuation.
- Varied sentence structures.

Simple sentences:

Noun + **Finite verb** (think of an action that is finished - attached to a definite person and time). A simple sentence is made up of a single (main) clause.

Example:

Jesus wept.

I slept.

You ate.

NOT!:

You eating.

I sleeping.

Jesus weeping.

1. How do we correct the above? By adding a finite verb! Can you do it for yourself?

Compound sentences:

Two simple sentences (and two clauses) joined together by one of these words:

For

And

Nor

But

Or

Yet

So

Replace the *full stop* with a *joining comma* before using a **FANBOYS** joining word (called coordinating conjunctions).

Example:

I sat. I ate my dinner.

Becomes:

I sat, and I ate my dinner.

2. Can you make a compound sentence using each of the **FANBOYS** joining words?

Complex sentences:

Join a (main) clause to a dependent clause using a subordinating conjunction. A dependent clause is rather like an 'incomplete' thought, and cannot stand in a sentence alone.

Example:

While I went to school.

This alone does not make sense. You need to add it to a (main) clause or a simple sentence to complete the thought. E.g.

While I went to school, I listened to music.

or:

I listened to music, *while I went to school.*

or

I, *while I went to school,* *listened to music.*

Show the difference between the two clauses by separating them using a pair of bracketing commas or comma.

3. Can you change where the dependent clause goes in the complex sentence below? Use the above to help you:

I ran, fearing for my life.

4. Can you write your own example of a complex sentence?