

Lecture Ten: Writing Simple Sentences and Paragraphs

By the end of this lecture, students will be able to:

- write grammatically correct simple sentences.
- write a short paragraph.

* A simple sentence has only a *subject* and a *verb* and expresses a complete thought (eg: some *students* (S) **like** (V) to study in the morning).

*Sometimes, simple sentences have *compound subject* (=two parts) (eg: **Cassidy** and **Arturo** like to study in the morning), *compound verb* (eg: Alicia **goes** to the library and **studies** everyday), *compound direct object* (eg: The green **dish** hit the **ground**), and *compound prepositional phrase* (eg: The llama spit **at the man's head**).

*A *paragraph* is a group of sentences that discuss one main idea. It can be as short as *one* sentence or as long as *ten* sentences. It has three parts: topic sentence (introduction), supporting sentences (body), and a concluding sentence (conclusion)

Practice 1: Write four simple sentences from your own expression, including compound subject, verb, direct object and prepositional phrase.

- 1-.....
- 2-.....
- 3-.....
- 4-.....

Practice 2: Complete the topic sentence (introduction) for the following paragraph.

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English speakers relaxing at home, for example, may put on kimonos, which is a Japanese word. English speakers who live in a warm climate may take an afternoon siesta on an outdoor patio without realizing that these are Spanish words. In their gardens, they may enjoy the fragrance of jasmine flowers, a word that came into English from Persian. They may even relax on a chaise while snacking on yogurt, words of French and Turkish origin, respectively. At night, they may shampoo their hair and put on pajamas, words from the Hindi language of India.

Practice 3: Read the following paragraph and extract from the supporting details (body)

- An example:

A statistic:.....

A quotation:.....

Red-Light Running

Although some people think that red-light running is a minor traffic violation that is no worse than jay walking, it can, in fact, become a deadly crime. Red-light runners cause

accidents all the time. Sometimes people are seriously injured and even killed. It is especially a problem in rush hour traffic. Everyone is in a hurry to get home, so drivers run red lights everywhere. The police do not do much about it because they are too busy. The only time they pay attention is when there is an accident, and then it is too late. In conclusion, running a red light is a serious offense.

Practice 4: Complete the concluding sentence (conclusion) for the following paragraph.

You can be a good conversationalist by being a good listener. When you are conversing with someone, pay close attention to the speaker's words while looking at his or her face. Show your interest by smiling and nodding. Furthermore, do not interrupt while someone is speaking; it is impolite to do so. If you have a good story, wait until the speaker is finished. Also, watch your body language; it can affect your communication whether you are the speaker or the listener. For instance, do not sit slumped in a chair or make nervous hand and foot movements. Be relaxed and bend your body slightly forward to show interest in the person and the conversation.

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Practice 5: Write a paragraph of ten sentences expressing your daily activities as a university student.

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References

-Oshima, A., & Hogue, A. (2006). *Writing academic English* (4th ed.). Pearson Longman.

-Student Learning Centre. *Simple, compound, and complex sentences: A practical handout.*

https://www.csuchico.edu/slc/_assets/documents/writing-center-handouts/simple-compound-and-complex-sentences.pdf