**Sentence lengths**

To get good grades and be an effective writer, you should use different sentence lengths, in different orders.

**Long sentences**

Read though the examples of how to construct long sentences, then practise writing some sentences that could come from your work underneath, using the same structure.

1. Although I had never seen the man with the suspicious looking package before, I felt a strange sense of déjà vu.

2. Although we’d been stuck here ages, I never lost my sense of humour.

3. Although I’d always been brought up to be careful with money, somehow I’d managed to find myself in financial difficulties.

4.Although\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. While I waited for the deafening noise to stop, I carefully looked around for something to aid me in my quest for freedom.

6. While my brother looked longingly out of the car window at the shops that adorned the streets of London, I was simply counting down the minutes until we got home.

7.While\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. The room was filled with a multitude of captivating objects that ranged from ancient-looking dolls, with their faces painted with beautiful precision, to classic toy cars that any toddler would get excited over.

9.The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

10. As if in slow motion, I watched in horror as the ball trickled through Jonesy’s legs and into the bottom left hand corner - like a rusty mini – just managing to make its way home.

(Add a simile to begin with and put a phrase between the dashes as highlighted information)

11. As if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Short Sentences

These short sentences are effective for adding tension or shock to your writing. But be careful, they are only effective when used sparingly (not very often) so that they stand out against the longer sentences.

1. I knew it was over.

2. I already knew the answer.

3. It was obvious.

Task: write a similar, short, sharp sentence to the one above that suggests that you know something with total certainty.

4.

5. The crowd roared.

6. He looked baffled.

7. I grinned.

8.

9. A stunned silence fell.

10. My eyes couldn’t take any more.

11. A shot rang out.

12.

**Mixing up your sentence lengths**

Good writers don’t only use long sentences or only use short sentences; they use both.

Look at these two extracts and decide how we could make the sentence length variety more effective.

Extract 1

Although I felt like my lungs were about to burst, I continued to hold my breath in order to make sure the monsters above didn’t notice our presence. It felt as if my heart was ready to pound its way out of my chest and I was almost certain the sound of it would eventually give us away. Then a sharp order was barked from across the room and I heard the threatening footsteps walk towards our hiding place, stop directly above my head and the sound of silence descend up us once more.

Extract 2

My lungs were close to bursting. I held my breath. The monsters above couldn’t know we were here. My heart was pounding. The sound felt deafening. ‘’There!’’ a voice yelled. Movement. Footsteps edged ever closer. They stopped. Silence once more.

Using different sentences from BOTH extracts, write a more effective extract where there is more variety (long, longer AND short)

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Tip: try to go for something along the lines of: short, long, longer, long, short, long, long, longer, short, short then long. *Just try mixing it up*