

## Improving Your writing-

### 1. Altering your sentence length-

There are three types of sentences-

1. Simple Sentence- contains one subject and one action- it contains one clause.

e.g. Michelle walked to the shop.

Identify- nouns, verbs-

Nouns- Michelle, shop.

Verbs- walked- past tense.

Present tense-

Michelle is walking to the shop.

Future tense-

Michelle will walk to the shop.

### 2. Compound Sentence-

They contain one subject and two(or more) clause joined together by a conjunction or joining word.

Michelle walked to the shop and bought a Mars Bar.

Identify- Nouns, verbs, conjunction, clauses.

### 3. Complex sentence-

A complex sentence consists of one or more main clauses and one or more subordinate clause.

Michelle, feeling hungry, walked to the shop and bought a Mars Bar.

Identify- noun, verbs, clauses, conjunctions.

Feeling hungry, Michelle walked to the shop and bought a Mars Bar.

Tip- Only use one subordinate clause per sentence. Use no more than two conjunctions per sentence.

Tip- Alter your sentence lengths. Use a short sentence to follow a long sentence. This may increase tension or suspense, or add a sense of mystery to your writing.

2. Using Descriptive and emotive language.  
Concentrate on using powerful verbs and descriptive adjectives in your writing- even if writing in expository form.

Michelle, feeling hungry, walked to the shop and bought a Mars Bar.

3. Editing.

Edit your work three times. Once as you write, secondly after you have written a paragraph and thirdly after you have written the whole piece. The second and third time of editing must be spoken.

4. Use imagery.

Similes, Metaphors and Personification can really make your writing come alive. A simile is comparing two things using the words like or as. Eg. Mr McNeil was as angry as an erupting volcano. A metaphor takes the comparison a step further and says one thing is or becomes the other. E.g. Mr McNeil's anger erupted (volcanically). Personification is the giving of human qualities to non-living things- "the leaves danced in the breeze." "The sun's shadow climbed up the brick wall". "The skies wept for the loss of the child".

5. Use Alliteration.

Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words in close proximity to each other. It makes your writing sound more interesting and catches the reader's attention. Eg. Around the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran.....

Rewrite the following passage.

Use descriptive language, edit for errors and alter your sentence length.

1.

"why did you do that"? she screamed  
Tick, tick, tick, time moved slowly. Four walls, an old jar of preserved green tomatoes and the kettle whistling its loud sound were the sum parts of what some people called life. She was depressed.

2.

We ate breakfast and finished preparing for our trip to the indoor gocarting complex. I were really look ford to the day having never being their before. We decided to form into teams. It was more fun that way. I had a feeling my team would win. We are pretty good drivers.

Possible revisions-

“Why did you do that?” She screamed.

Tick. Tick. Tick. The hands on the clock seemed frozen as time moved slowly. Four walls, an old jar of preserved green tomatoes and the kettle howling as it boiled were the sum parts of what some people called life. The dark void of depression made the little things in life seem much larger than they really were.

“Why did you do that?” She screamed.

Tick. Tick. Tick. The hands on the clock seemed frozen as time moved slowly. Four walls, an old jar of preserved green tomatoes and the kettle howling as it boiled were the sum parts of what some people called life. Depression devoured her in its deathly jaws.