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**Fiction genres**

Look at the types of books here and draw lines to match them with the opening sentences from the first chapters.

- **Fantasy**
  - a. Arthur the aardvark eats ants.
- **Children’s**
  - b. Pino’s sister could never remember anything. But she remembered that she had seen him passing a note to Amelia, and when she got in from school she told his mother.
- **Young adult**
  - c. It was a bright, silver-cold frosty night. Elliot looked out of his window, waiting for the signal. He waited and waited, and then it came. A puff of what could only be smoke, from what could only be a curiously small dragon.
- **Murder mystery**
  - d. ‘Solving mysteries, eh?’ the colonel laughed. ‘You won’t find many mysteries in this house, or any murders, I can tell you that.’
    - ‘Oh, but I already have,’ replied Miss Teaparty. ‘There’s a dead body inside your grandfather clock.’
- **Romance**
  - e. Silvia leaned against the arm of her beau and sighed. They were so happy together now, but it hadn’t always been like that. She let her mind drift back to the first time she had met Olivier . . .
- **Sci-fi**
  - f. The steel tube that was their transport and home was out of control. Quggy looked at the Oglo sitting at the control panel and wondered. *Was he loyal to the Mother Ship, or was he deliberately taking them out of orbit?*
- **Adventure**
  - g. Robin of Loxley threw back his hood. ‘Don’t be too sure of that,’ he said, ‘I have a dozen men with longbows outside. ‘You!’ shouted the Sherriff. ‘How did you get here?’
    - ‘Over the moat,’ Robin shrugged.
    - ‘Guards!’ screamed the Sherriff.
Types of sentence

a ‘Jump!’
b ‘Jump the fence?’
c ‘She jumped over the fence.’
d He opened the gate and walked into the street.
e The boy, who was lazy and very unfit, opened the gate because it was easier than jumping over the fence.

1. Match lines a to e above to these types of sentence. The first two are done for you.

Interrogative (question) ........................................... Simple .........................
Imperative/Command (order) .......................... Complex ........................

2. Think of three more single word verbs that can be used as imperatives or commands.

Here is an example: Stop!

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3. A simple sentence contains only one clause. A compound sentence has two main clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction and, or, but.

Clause A
She opened the gate. (= simple sentence)

Clause B
She opened the gate but did not shut it. (= compound sentence)

Write this paragraph so it has simple and compound sentences. Add coordinating conjunctions and punctuation to make the compound sentences.

I don’t like going to parties I especially don’t like swimming pool parties my friends were going I wanted to be with my friends it was awful the music was too loud I got a headache I was sick on the way home I missed my bus

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'What has happened to me?' he thought. It was not a dream. His room, a proper human being's room, rather too small, lay peacefully between its four familiar walls. ( . . )

Gregor’s gaze then turned towards the window, and the murky weather—one could hear the raindrops striking the window-sill—made him quite melancholy. 'What if I went on sleeping for a while and forgot all these idiocies?', he thought, but that was quite impossible, as he was used to sleeping on his right side and in his present state he was unable to get himself into this position. However energetically he flung himself onto his right side, whenever he did so he would rock onto his back again. He must have tried a hundred times, shutting his eyes so that he didn’t have to see his jittery legs, and he only gave over when he began to feel a slight ache in his side, something he had never felt before.

from *Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka

Write out this scene from *Metamorphosis* in the first person as if you are Gregor. Try to keep the same atmosphere and the same actions, but try to imagine what Gregor is thinking and feeling as if it is happening to you.
Gulliver's travels

In a little time, I felt something alive moving on my left leg, which advancing gently forward over my breast, came almost up to my chin; when bending mine eyes downwards as much as I could, I perceived it to be a human creature not six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hands, and a quiver at his back. In the meantime, I felt at least forty more of the same kind (as I conjectured) following the first. I was in the utmost astonishment, and roared so loud, that they all ran back in a fright; and some of them, as I was afterward told, were hurt with the falls they got by leaping from my sides upon the ground. However, they soon returned, and one of them, who ventured so far as to get a full sight of my face, lifting up his hands and eyes by way of admiration, cried out in a shrill, but distinct voice, Hekinah degul.

from Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift

The author Jonathan Swift wrote Gulliver’s Travels in the first person as if he were Gulliver. Read this extract carefully and rewrite it in the third person as if you were one of the small people of Lilliput.
Complex sentences and clauses

A complex sentence has a main clause and one or more subordinate or dependent clauses. The main clause is the most important part of the sentence. The term ‘complex’ describes the grammatical structure; it doesn’t mean it has to be a long or difficult sentence. Look at these short complex sentences.

I admit that I have made a mistake.
They told everyone the good news that they had passed the exam.

1. The best way to see how simple and complex sentences work is to change them around. Make each of these pairs of simple sentences into one complex sentence.
   The first one is done for you.
   A a I was gazing out of the window. b I saw a strange sort of cat.
   As I was gazing out of the window I saw a strange cat. Or I saw a strange cat while I was gazing out of the window.
   B a She found a book. b She was on her way to the library.
   .................................................................
   C a He works hard at school. b He wants to be a lawyer.
   .................................................................
   D a They heard beautiful music. b They were passing a concert hall.
   .................................................................

2. Underline the adverbs and adverbial phrases in this paragraph that show where, when or how.
   The first one is done for you.
   Standing in the queue, we waited for the show to begin. While we were waiting, a street performer did a dance. As soon as the show began, I realised it hadn’t been worth waiting for. Within a few minutes I was asleep; this often happens when I’m bored.

3. Write three sentences about your daily school routine using fronted adverbials. Start each sentence with a phrase that tells the reader when, where or how.
   Start like this: Every morning I get up at . . .
Writing a script

Here is an excerpt from the conversation between Josh and Melanie about fantasy movies.

Josh: Since when does a fantasy story have to be realistic? That’s silly. The whole thing about fantasy stories and movies is that they aren’t realistic. And they are all different.

Melanie: The basic stories are the same, though. Good versus evil. The hero everybody loves is in danger, will he survive? Will he save the princess? All stories are basically the same. They are all about male heroes as well for that matter.

Josh: Female heroes are called heroines.

Melanie: (laughing) You won’t win any arguments that way, Josh. What I’m saying is that the basic plot of most of these movies is more or less the same.

Write a similar dialogue in the form of a script between two friends who are discussing action movies.

- Keep the dialogue informal.
- Underline colloquial expressions that you would not use with anyone except your friends. There is no need to be too rude!

Here is an example:

Josh: I love Star Wars movies. They’re ace.

Melanie: Star Wars! What a load of rubbish.

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The narrator's voice

When you plan a story you need to decide is who is telling it because this is who the reader hears when they are reading.

Read this extract from *The Dragonslayer’s Servant* and answer the questions.

Fenner the dragon raised his head and sniffed, but he could smell nothing except his own foul odour in the closed, stale cave. Something had disturbed him from his winter-long sleep. He shifted his weight and pecked off a few bits of gold and silver, brooches and cloak clasps that had stuck to his soft underside then checked the domed ring was in its place. Slowly, stiff from so long in one position, he raised himself up off his nest and stretched each leg, arching his ridged back to ease his spine. He had grown even bigger and fatter over the winter despite so many weeks without food and his lair was now a very tight fit.

His stomach rumbled: he was hungry and very thirsty.

1. a Which type of narrator, and from whose point of view does the writer describe the scene?

b Give a reason to support your answer.

2. Continue the story of Fenner the dragon in the first person, from Fenner’s point of view.
Alternative reality quiz

1. Am I the first person or the third person?

2. It is the third person, but who are they – him and her?

3. Vermin are:
   a. a sort of spaghetti like vermicelli
   b. animals or insects that damage crops and carry disease
   c. a type of wart on the soles of your feet.

4. A semi-colon is:
   a. a punctuation mark used in complex sentences
   b. a queue at a bus or train station or airport that breaks in half to let people pass through
   c. the upper part of the colon in the human body.

5. A fronted adverbial is:
   a. type of vehicle designed to carry large families
   b. part of the façade of a large house
   c. an opening clause that carries details on where, when and how.

6. Explain why you are not likely to find an embedded clause in your bed or bedding.

7. Fantasy stories are always completely fantastic and unbelievable?
   a. True
   b. False
   Give reasons for your choice.