**AO6 Mastery Therapy Set 1**

**Sentences and Punctuation**

*Sometimes, simple sentences can be used to contrast with (juxtapose with) longer sentences*

*Underline the simple sentences that are used for effect. Label each of them with the effect you think is created.*

I picked up my pen. I gave it a chew for a few brief moments. I yawned. This was going to be a long day.

In the office, colleagues were milling about, all busy, all content on getting their jobs done. I didn’t know any of them very well and neither did I want to. I yawned again.

Then it happened. In one moment, everything changed.

The building rocked and screamed out a colossal roar as if it was being pulled from its very foundations. Outside, the other buildings started to sway as if they had all been invited to a dance and the music had finally started. Concrete dust poured from their sides whilst inside, people gripped to the walls in an attempt to stay connected to something solid, something safe.

In all of the panic that ensued, I tried to push my way through the crowds, out of the building and into the safety of the open street. The air was thick with dust and the heat of a thousand strangers whose bodies surged against mine, each of us trying to get out of the building that we knew might soon begin to shake again. Finally, I reached the now shattered door and pushed forward, so relieved to be getting out, to be reaching safety. The street was destroyed.

A **dash** or a **semicolon** can be used for emphasis.

A single dash can be used to add emphasis to a particular word, phrase or clause that either starts or ends a sentence.

*Add a significant word, phrase or clause to the following sentences and link it with a dash to emphasise it. The first one has been done for you.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Original Sentence** | **Sentence with a Dash for Emphasis** |
| She was not going to give up. | She was not going to give up – ever. |
| The bullet ripped through the air before finally meeting with flesh. |  |
| Annoyingly, the carpet fitter was late. |  |
| The sun was setting and that meant that their time was almost up. |  |
| The car salesman rubbed his hands in delight; the couple that had just walked in looked clueless. |  |
| Through bleary eyes, Julie fumbled for the coffee machine’s on switch. |  |

A semicolon can be used to link two complete sentences to make one whole sentence. The semicolon indicates that the two sentences are linked in meaning; the sentence added must add to the meaning of the first.

*Edit the following sentences by adding a semicolon and a complete sentence after it. It must be a complete sentence. The first example has been done for you.*

Miraculously, the boy passed his test; his mum was the teacher.

The fireworks cracked and sizzled in the sky. .......................................................

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Because she was in such a rush, she completely forgot to take her wallet with her. ...........

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The first fist of soil landed with a thud on the coffin’s wooden lid. ..............................

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Only minutes old, she was already the centre of everything. .....................................

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Slowly inhaling, the doctor placed her pen on the desk and fixed her eyes on mine. ..........

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There are four golden rules to follow when punctuating **commas (for clauses and phrases)**:

1. You CANNOT use a comma to separate two main clauses; you can only use a semicolon, a colon, a dash or a FANBOYS.
2. If you add any of the ingredients BEFORE a main clause, you need to use a comma.
3. When you use an adjective, an ING present participle phrase, a past participle phrase or a conjunctive adverbial AFTER the main clause, you still need a comma.
4. If you embed a word, clause or phrase in a main or subordinate clause, you need a pair of commas, dashes or brackets.

*Using the four golden rules to help you, decide whether the sentences in the table are punctuated correctly. If they are not, circle and correct the errors.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sentence** | **Correctly Punctuated?** |
| As I looked around the house, walking from room to room, I was conscious to note how many plug sockets there were. |  |
| Whenever his owners left the house Saucy the sausage dog always made his way to the fridge, opening it with his stubby paws. |  |
| At the swimming pool Connor whizzed down the water slide, racing his sister to the finish |  |
| In the village, the locals ran for cover as the enemy planes zoomed overhead, dropping NAPALM gas on anything and everything below. |  |

*Read the paragraph below and add punctuation where it is needed.*

the man swaggered into the room he looked confidently around and let the letter in his hand be an unspoken threat nobody spoke a word before he spoke he made sure that everyone was looking at him he wanted everybody to hear what he had to say slowly he raised his hand into the air and shot a single glare at his opponent in the corner the woman fell to her knees and began to cry he tilted his head back and began to laugh he looked her in the eyes as he knelt down beside her enjoying her defeat he grinned as he waved the paper in her face and began to shout triumphantly

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