

Improving Sentences

Improving Sentence

Objective:

Improve sentences by adding:

- ▶ Subordinate openers
- ▶ Expanded noun phrases
- ▶ Conjunctions
- ▶ Extra information

A simple sentence

The teacher threw the
pen.

Adding Subordinate clauses - as openers

A subordinate clause, is a clause that does not make sense by itself - it cannot be a complete sentence by itself.

They usually start with:


When	After	Before	During	
Once	Since	Until	While	Although
Even though	Unless	Even if		

Add a subordinate opener:

Let's use a simple one:

When the boy shouted

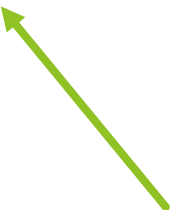
When the boy shouted, the teacher threw the pen.



Subordinate Clause -
doesn't make sense without
the rest of the sentence



Comma (very important)



Main Clause -
the point of the sentence

Add a conjunction

I know you all know what conjunctions are but here's some to help:

because

even though

after

in order to

but

so

although

and

Adding Conjunctions

Let's add a simple one like because:


When the boy shouted, the teacher threw
the pen because...

The sentence isn't complete because we
need to give a reason the teacher threw
the pen.

Adding extra information

Now we need to add more information after the conjunction:

When the boy shouted, the teacher threw the pen
because **he was secretly a monster from another
galaxy.**



This would work as a sentence by itself but
we link it with the conjunction

Expanded noun phrases

When the boy shouted, the teacher threw the pen because he was secretly a monster from another galaxy.

It's good so far, but it can be a lot better. We need to add some description to the nouns.

Let's add some adjectives to "the teacher"

Noun Phrases

handsome

hilarious

When the boy shouted, the teacher threw the pen
because he was secretly a monster from another
galaxy.

Now we have:

When the boy shouted, the handsome, hilarious
teacher threw the pen because he was secretly a
monster from another galaxy.

Expanding Noun Phrase

To expand the noun phrase we must add a bit more description.

My favourite way to do this is with the word WITH

the handsome, hilarious teacher

the handsome, hilarious teacher WITH all the best skills

Now we have an expanded noun phrase!

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern, layered effect on the right side of the slide.

Finally!

Let's see what the final sentence looks like!

When the boy shouted, the handsome, hilarious teacher with all the best skills threw the pen because he was secretly a monster from another galaxy.

FANTASTIC! And maybe even true!

Bonus!

Using a sentence like this in your writing can help build tension! If you're really good you could add a very short sentence after it to make the tensions even stronger:

When the boy shouted, the handsome, hilarious teacher with all the best skills threw the pen because he was secretly a monster from another galaxy. It missed.

Bonus!

Or how about:

Creeping inside the door, the fearless,
intrepid girl with eyes as wide as moons
silently walked into the darkness even though
she did not know what she may find. She
heard it.

Wow! Tense!

Your Job!

Here are 10 simple sentences. Add:

- ▶ Subordinate openers
- ▶ Expanded noun phrases
 - ▶ Conjunctions
- ▶ Extra information

Your Job!

1. The girl ran.
2. The boy jumped.
3. The windows rattled.
4. The lion roared.
5. The beast moved.
6. The ball swerved.
7. The car sped.
8. The curtains twitched.
9. The wind howled.
10. The monster awoke.