

HOW TO MAKE YOUR WRITING MORE INTERESTING

To make a sentence more interesting, we can add more details.

1 Look at how the second sentence adds information. Match the new information (1–8) with the descriptions (A–H).

- *I went to Spain.*
¹ Last year, I went to Spain, ² which is my favourite country.
 - *I like warm weather.*
 I like warm weather, ³ but I don't like cold weather.
 - *I've got an exam tomorrow.*
 I've got an ⁴ important exam tomorrow, ⁵ so I had to walk to school.
 - *George was happy.*
 George was ⁶ really happy ⁷ because it was his birthday.
 - *I read the letter.*
 I read the letter ⁸ slowly and carefully.
- A** adding a contrasting idea 3
- B** giving a reason
- C** saying when something happened
- D** giving the result of an action
- E** using a relative clause to give extra information
- F** using an adjective to describe something
- G** using an adverb to make an adjective stronger
- H** using adverbs to describe how something happens

2 Complete the table with the words from the box.

and beautiful because but completely
 delicious easily later that day loudly
 modern quickly so the next day
 this morning wonderful yesterday

adjectives	adverbs	linking words	time expressions

3 Make the sentences more interesting. Use the words from the box. Can you think of any other words to use?

but early the next morning
 large really suddenly

- 1 It started to rain.
- 2 I called Max, he didn't answer his phone.
- 3 We set out for London
- 4 I ordered a cup of coffee and a slice of cake.
- 5 The film was boring!

4 Join the two parts of the sentences with *and*, *but*, *so* or *because*.

- we didn't play tennis – the weather was bad
 We didn't play tennis because the weather was bad.
- 1 I was very tired – I went straight to bed

 - 2 We all went to the party – everyone had a great time

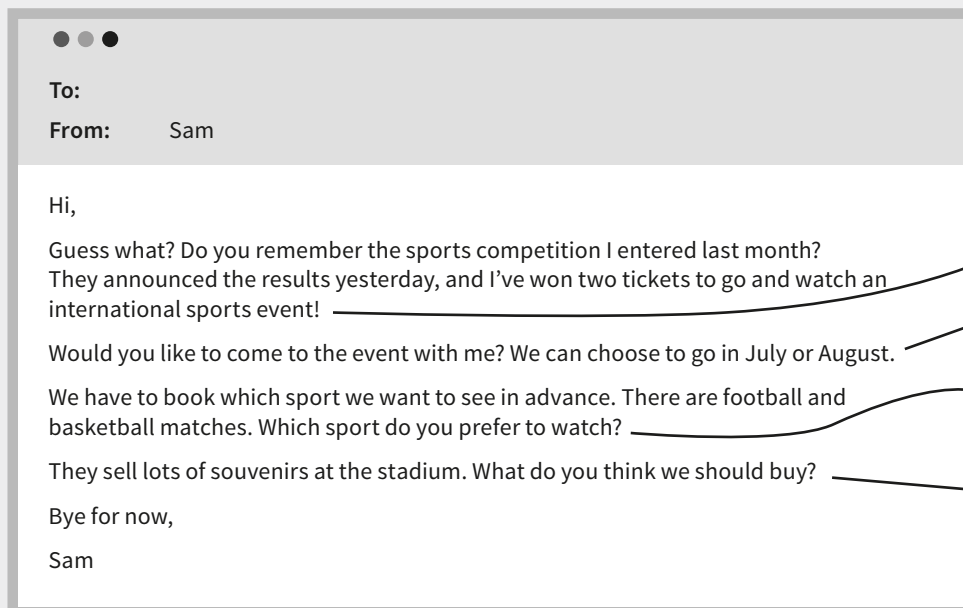
 - 3 Paul wanted to come with us – he couldn't

 - 4 We all laughed – it was so funny

WRITING PART 1: AN EMAIL

1 Read the exam task. What information should you include in the email?

Read this email from your English-speaking friend Sam, and the notes you have made.



Amazing!

Yes – tell Sam when you can make it.

Tell Sam.

Suggest ...

Write your **email** to James, using **all** the **notes**.

MODEL ANSWER

Use an informal phrase to start the email.

Hi, Sam,

Thanks for your email. That's amazing news about the competition! Well done!

Yes, I love sport, so it would be incredible to go to a big sports event with you. I can go with you in July, but I can't go in August because I'm on holiday then.

I'm a big football fan, so I'd love to see an international football match. It would be brilliant to see some of my favourite heroes in action.

Why don't we buy football shirts as souvenirs? We can wear them at the match!

See you soon,

Tom

Remember you are replying to Sam's email.

This answers the question about when you can or can't make it, and gives a reason.

This answers the question 'Which sport do you prefer to watch?'

This is a suggestion.

Use an informal phrase at the end.

KEY LANGUAGE AND IDEAS FOR EMAILS

Opening an email:

Hi Hi, Tom Hi, there Hello

Closing an email:

Love, See you soon, Take care, Bye

Responding to an email:

Thanks for your email. It's good to hear from you.

Responding to good news:

That's amazing news! I'm so happy for you! Wow!
How exciting! Well done!

Responding to bad news:

I'm sorry to hear about ...

Making a suggestion:

Why don't you / we ...? You / We could ... If I were you,
I'd ... Make sure you ...

Making an offer or promise:

I could ... if you like. Would you like me to ...? I can ...
if you want.

Making a request:

Could you ...? Can you ...? Would you mind ... -ing?

Giving good or bad news:

You'll be pleased to hear that ... I'm afraid ...
Guess what ...? I'm sorry, but ...

Linking words and phrases:

and but so because also as well

Informal language:

- contractions: I'm you're he's
- informal words and phrases: awesome great keep in touch take care I guess ...
- exclamation marks to show emotion: That's great news! Wow!

3 Correct the underlined mistakes in the sentences giving good or bad news. Use the Key language and ideas box to check your answers.

- 1 I afraid I won't be able to come to your party.
- 2 Guess that I'm doing next week?
- 3 I'm sorry, and Dan won't be here when you visit.
- 4 You'll be pleased hear that I've now finished all my exams!

4 Choose the correct linking words in *italics*.

- 1 I finish work at six o'clock, *because / so* I can meet you at 6.30.
- 2 My sister Martha is *also / as well* coming home for the holidays.
- 3 I'm not very good at singing, *because / but* I still enjoy it.
- 4 I'm a bit disappointed *because / so* my exam results weren't brilliant.
- 5 I'll find the document *also / and* send it to you in an email.

2 Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences. Then decide if each sentence is a suggestion (S), an offer (O), a promise (P) or a request (R).

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|----------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Could you | A | I'd definitely accept the job.
..... |
| 2 | If I were you, | B | some useful addresses if you want. |
| 3 | I can send you | C | be there to help on the day.
..... |
| 4 | Don't worry, I'll | D | let me know what time you're arriving? |

5 Read the exam task. What information must you include in your email?

Read this email from your English-speaking friend Logan, and the notes you have made.

<p>To: From: Logan</p>	
<p>Hi,</p> <p>The weather forecast looks good next weekend, so my family's having a barbecue to celebrate the end of the school year. Would you like to come?</p> <p>I'd like to invite everyone in our English class. What kind of food do you think our classmates would like to eat at a barbecue?</p> <p>I'd also like everyone to play some outdoor games after we eat. What game do you think would be best for our classmates?</p> <p>See you soon, Logan</p>	<p>Great idea!</p> <p>Yes – say which day.</p> <p>Tell Sam.</p> <p>Suggest ...</p>

Write your **email** to Logan, using **all** the **notes**.

6 Before you write your reply to Logan, complete the table with ideas.

<p>Paragraph 1 (respond to the invitation)</p>	
<p>Paragraph 2 (suggest some food)</p>	
<p>Paragraph 3 (explain your idea for a game)</p>	
<p>Useful phrases I can use</p>	

7 Write your email, using your notes from Exercise 6. Write about 100 words.

8 Check your email and make changes if necessary.

- Have you answered all the questions and included all the necessary information?
- Have you used a suitable phrase to open and close your email?
- Have you tried to make your writing more interesting by adding details?
- Have you used informal language?
- Have you used linking words and phrases?
- Have you counted your words?

WRITING PART 2: AN ARTICLE

- 1 Read the exam task. What should your article be about? What information should it include?

Articles wanted!

My favourite city

What's your favourite city?

What's so special about this city?

What city would you love to travel to in the future?

Tell us what you think!

Write an article answering these questions and we will publish the most interesting ones on our website.

MODEL ANSWER

My favourite city is Paris because it is so lively and interesting. It is also full of surprises.

Paris is a city of variety. It has many beautiful old buildings, but it also feels modern. You can visit expensive designer shops or small, traditional markets. There are hundreds of restaurants which serve French food, or different food from around the world. You can meet all kinds of people, too. There is something for everyone.

I would love to travel to New York in the future because I've seen the city in so many films, and I would love to visit it in real life.

The first paragraph answers the first question and gives a reason

Adjectives make the article more interesting to read.

The second paragraph gives more details and answers the second question in the task.

The third paragraph is about a city the writer would like to go to in the future.

KEY LANGUAGE AND IDEAS FOR ARTICLES

Use adjectives for describing people and things:
attractive brave calm cheerful convenient ...

Use linking words and phrases:
and but so because although also as well ...

Use an introductory sentence for each paragraph:
Paris is a city of variety.
A good job should be creative. Photography is a great hobby.

Give your opinion:
I think ... It seems to me that ... I would say that ...

- 2 Choose the best introductory sentence in *italics* for each opening paragraph.

1 *There are many benefits to keeping fit. / I don't really do enough exercise.* Doing regular exercise is good for your heart, and it helps you to lose weight. It can also improve your mood, especially if you feeling tired or unhappy.

2 *Some older people are not used to the internet. / The internet has changed people's lives in many ways.* People can now go online to do their shopping and book restaurants and holidays. Students also have access to lots of information that was difficult to find before the internet.

3 *Teaching is a very difficult job. / I would like to become a teacher.* Students are not always interested in learning, and teachers have to work hard to encourage their students to study. Also, there are sometimes problems with bad behaviour from students.

3 Complete the table with the adjectives from the box. Can you add any more adjectives?

amusing delicious freezing frightening
 old-fashioned peaceful quiet stormy
 tasty tight

clothes	films	food	countryside	weather

4 Read the exam task in Exercise 5. What should your article be about? What should it include?

5 Before you write your article, complete the table with ideas.

Articles wanted!
My perfect job
What makes the perfect job?
Is it being creative, travelling, meeting people, or something else?
How important is it to earn a lot of money?
Tell us what you think!
 Write an article answering these questions and we will publish the most interesting ones on our website.

Paragraph 1 (answer the first question)	
Paragraph 2 (give more details)	
Paragraph 3 (give your opinion about money)	
Useful phrases I can use	

6 Write your article, using your notes from Exercise 5. Write about 100 words.

7 Check your article and make changes if necessary.

- Have you answered all the questions and included all the necessary information?
- Have you used adjectives to make your article interesting to read?
- Have you expressed a personal opinion?
- Have you used linking words and phrases?
- Have you counted your words?

WRITING PART 2: A STORY

1 Read the exam task. Which is the best way to continue the story (1, 2 or 3)? Why?

- Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.
- Your story must begin with this sentence:

I opened the letter from my cousins in Brazil.

- 1 I have three cousins who live in Brazil, and I get on very well with them. They are all very keen on football.
- 2 They said they were coming to visit me, and they were arriving on the 15th – today!
- 3 I think Brazil is a really interesting country, and I would love to go there one day. There are lots of amazing wild animals there.

MODEL ANSWER

I opened the letter from my cousins in Brazil. They said they were coming to visit me, and they were arriving on the 15th – today!

The first paragraph gives background to the story.

I was really excited. First, I cleaned everything in the flat. Then I went to the supermarket to buy food. After that, I made a cake to make them feel welcome. By evening, I was completely exhausted. I picked up the letter again to check the time of their flight, and that's when I noticed the date. They were arriving on July 15th, but today was June 15th!

The second paragraph gives the main events of the story.

Time expressions make the order of events clear.

We had a wonderful time together in July, and all laughed about the mistake I had made!

Adjectives and adverbs make the story more interesting.

The last paragraph ends the story.

KEY LANGUAGE AND IDEAS FOR STORIES

Use past simple verbs for the main events:

I went to a restaurant. I found a letter.

Use past continuous verbs for longer actions in the past:

I was waiting for the bus. The sun was shining.

Use past perfect verbs for background events:

Unfortunately, I had forgotten my purse.

Time expressions:

First then later the next day finally ...

Adjectives to describe people:

friendly kind tall

Adjectives to describe places:

busy quiet modern

Adjectives to describe feelings:

excited angry ... delighted

Adverbs to describe how someone does something:

quickly slowly carefully

Adverbs to comment on what happened:

luckily fortunately unfortunately

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple, past continuous or past perfect.

- 1 I packed my bags and then (call) a taxi to take me to the airport.
- 2 Sara (wait) for me when I got to the restaurant.
- 3 I could finally relax because I (pass) all my exams!
- 4 I found an old key while I (walk) along the beach.
- 5 James was late because he (forget) to set his alarm.
- 6 I opened the door and then quickly (close) it again.

3 Choose the correct time expressions in *italics*.

I was really scared when my car broke down near the forest. ¹ *Then / First*, I tried starting the car, but that didn't work. ² *Finally / Then*, I tried to call a friend, but I had no signal on my phone. ³ *Next / After*, I decided to wait for another car so I could ask for help. ⁴ *An hour later / Before an hour*, I was still sitting there! Suddenly, I heard the sound of another car. ⁵ *Finally / After*, someone came to help me and I got home safely.

4 Complete the sentences with adjectives from the box.

curly	disappointed	entertaining
messy	smart	spicy

- 1 The room was and not very clean.
- 2 She was wearing a very nice, jacket and skirt.
- 3 He cooked some delicious, food for us.
- 4 The show was fun and very
- 5 She introduced me to a tall young man with hair.
- 6 I was very when she didn't call me.

5 Read the exam task. Before you write your story, complete the table with ideas.

- Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.
- Your story must begin with this sentence:
Last week, I went to the zoo.

Paragraph 1 (the background to the story)

Paragraph 2 (the main events)

Paragraph 3 (the ending)

Useful phrases I can use

6 Write your story, using your notes from Exercise 5. Write about 100 words.

7 Check your story and make changes if necessary.

- Does your story have a clear beginning, middle and ending?
- Have you used verbs in the past simple, past continuous and past perfect?
- Have you used time expressions to order the events?
- Have you used adjectives and adverbs to make your story interesting?
- Have you written about 100 words?