

# UNIT 1 Words That Make Sentences

## WRITING APPLICATION A: Using Precise Nouns

When you order a meal in a restaurant, you tell the server exactly what foods you want. By stating precisely the items you want, you save the server time in getting your meal to you. Similarly, when you write, you should try to use precise nouns to help your readers understand exactly what you are describing. Precise nouns enable your readers to form clear mental pictures quickly. Note how the second sentence in the examples below creates a clearer picture by using a precise noun.

- EXAMPLES
1. Alexandra wanted a small *pet* for her birthday.  
Alexandra wanted a small *pooodle* for her birthday.
  2. Jim watched the silver *boat* glide over the waves.  
Jim watched the silver *hydroplane* glide over the waves.

**Writing Assignment:** On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about something you have wanted for a long time. Describe exactly what it is that you have wanted and why you have wanted it.

**Evaluation Checklist:** Reread your first draft. Use these guidelines to help you judge the content and organization of your writing.

- \_\_\_ I have used precise nouns in my writing.
- \_\_\_ Each of my sentences is complete.
- \_\_\_ Each of my supporting sentences refers to the topic sentence.

**Revising, Proofreading, and Writing the Final Version:** Use your evaluation to help you revise the first draft of your paragraph. Make sure each of your nouns is as precise as you would like it to be. Then proofread your revised draft. Write your paragraph in final form.

## WRITING APPLICATION B: Using Lively Action Verbs

Action was a key ingredient of the old silent movies. Because there was no sound to accompany the pictures, the actions shown on film had to tell the entire story. Similarly, good writing, which creates strong mental pictures for readers, must use lively action verbs to describe actions clearly. The more lively the action verbs you use, the better the picture of action you create for your readers. Note how the second sentence in each of the following examples creates a clearer picture of the action.

- EXAMPLES
1. The snake *crawled* across the lawn.  
The snake *zigzagged* across the lawn.
  2. The engines *started* just before the jet *moved* forward.  
The engines *roared* just before the jet *lurched* forward.

**Writing Assignment:** On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about an interesting but unusual event you have witnessed. Give details that clearly describe actions.

**Evaluation Checklist:** Reread your first draft. Use these guidelines to help you judge the content and organization of your writing.

- \_\_\_ I have used lively action verbs in my writing.
- \_\_\_ Each of my sentences is complete.
- \_\_\_ My writing follows a logical order.
- \_\_\_ Each of my supporting sentences refers to the topic sentence.

**Revising, Proofreading, and Writing the Final Version:** Use the results of your evaluation to revise the first draft of your paragraph. Replace any dull action verbs with more lively ones. Then proofread your revised draft. Write your paragraph in final form.

## WRITING APPLICATION C: Using Pronouns in Place of Nouns

Have you ever heard a record skip as you were listening to it play? If you have, you may have noticed that you began to concentrate on the repeating word and forgot about the song. Using a noun over and over again in your writing can have a similar effect on your readers. Your readers may begin to notice the word being repeated and miss part of your message. Use pronouns in place of some of your nouns to prevent this kind of needless repetition.

EXAMPLE *Jorge* planned a surprise birthday party for *his* sister *Marianne*. *He* secretly invited twelve of *Marianne's* friends to the party. To make *her* birthday extra special that year, *he* also invited *her* best friend, *Eleanor*, who had moved to another state the year before. To both *Jorge's* and *Marianne's* surprise, *Eleanor* showed up at the party.

**Writing Assignment:** On a separate sheet of paper, write about an occasion that was made special because of someone else's efforts. Give details that tell what that person did to make the event special.

**Evaluation Checklist:** Reread your first draft. Use these guidelines to help you judge the content and organization of your writing.

- \_\_\_ I have used pronouns in place of some nouns.
- \_\_\_ I have used logical order in describing what happened.
- \_\_\_ Each of my paragraphs includes a topic sentence and supporting sentences.

**Revising, Proofreading, and Writing the Final Version:** Use your evaluation to help you revise your first draft. Change some of your nouns to pronouns if you find they are repeated too often in your writing. Then proofread your revised draft. Write your draft in final form.