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The Top of Everest

THINK ABOUT IT!

When you write, you do not want all of your sentences to be the same. You want to have a variety of long and short ones. This helps your writing flow, and it keeps your writing interesting. One way to combine two sentences into one is shown below.

Erik is a climber. He reached the top of Mount Everest.

Erik, a climber, reached the top of Mount Everest.



Activity: Combine the two sentences into one long one in the same way as the example above. Be sure to include commas.

1. Erik was born with a rare eye disease. He was completely blind by the age of 13.

2. Erik was a determined person. He challenged the ideas of what a blind person can and cannot do.

3. Erik was unable to see. He could hear the difference between good and bad ice when he hit it with his ax.

Activity: Now it is your turn. Write three sets of sentences about real events. Each set should have two short sentences that are then made into one long one like the examples above.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

IMAGINE THAT!

Imagine that you are a reporter. You are telling the story of Erik Weihenmayer, the blind climber who reached the top of Mount Everest.

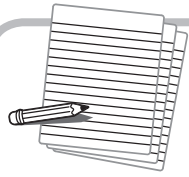
Activity: Write down what you will say. Vary your sentences by having long and short ones. This will make the news easier to listen to. It also helps people pay attention. Use descriptive words that excite the reader, too. Then say your newscast out loud. Did the different kinds of sentences help it flow?

Event Facts

- May 25, 2001, Erik Weihenmayer reaches top of Everest
- world's highest mountain in the Himalayas
- brutal, cold, savage winds
- not enough air at top to survive for long
- listened to bells on other climbers
- would listen to "thunk" of his ax on ice—could tell good ice from bad ice
- can hear the sound of open space compared to closed space due to sound vibrations
- said about drop-offs—"It's an overwhelming and pretty scary sound."

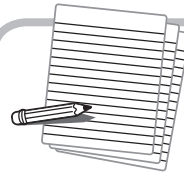


Good morning listeners. This is _____



Prompt 5

Describe four things that you like about yourself or that you can do well. Give some details. Why did you choose these things, and/or how did you learn to do them?



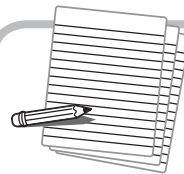
Prompt 6

The hair on the back of Paula's neck seemed to stand up when . . .



Prompt 7

Would you rather be captain of a submarine or a boat? Explain why. Tell where you might take your crew if you could take them anywhere you wanted.



Prompt 8

"Get out of the way!" cried Sam, "It's coming right for us!" . . .

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Answering Questions to Elaborate Sentences

Directions: Elaborate the simple sentences below by answering at least two of the following questions: who, what, what kind, where, when, why, and how. Rewrite the complete sentence. The first one has been done for you.

1. The students studied history.

The 8th grade students at Hill Middle School studied United States History last summer.

2. They went to the theater. _____

3. The child was hit. _____

4. The zoo is fun. _____

5. The student was mad. _____

6. The man made dinner. _____

7. The boy likes animals. _____

8. The woman gave the orders. _____

9. The kids crossed the street. _____

10. The students were issued lockers. _____

11. The contestants swam in the competition. _____

12. The cards were arranged in order. _____

13. Chad broke one of the glasses. _____

14. The bookstore specializes in novels. _____

15. Each of the states has a climate. _____

List the Sensory Images

Directions: Read the description below. Notice how the writer appeals to the various senses. Find, underline, and list 30 sensory words or phrases that help you to experience what the writer is describing.

I will always remember my visit to the most fascinating rainforest in South America. The air was moist and smelled of moss and rich dirt. I observed white, fluffy clouds gracefully floating above the branches of the towering trees. Standing thickly, the trees provided a canopy that allowed only thin streams of light to push through. Plants of various sizes and shapes, some pointed, some round, blended in with the natural setting of greens, browns, and yellows. Underfoot, the ground was soft, mushy, and slippery. I heard the sounds of rippling water and the gentle rustling of leaves in the near distance. As I made my way through each curving path, I smelled sweet, fresh flowers. I have to admit that at times, my hands felt clammy and my heart thumped a little faster whenever unfamiliar, croaking creatures wearing coats of red, yellow, and neon green, hopped across my path. They must have been as timid as the stranger walking through their home. In retrospect, my adventure in the rainforest was captivating and full of surprises.

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ | 21. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ | 22. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ | 23. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ | 24. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ | 25. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ | 30. _____ |