SENTENCE STRUCTURES

A Simple Sentence is a sentence with only one independent clause.

ex. The man’s tuxedo was pink.

A Compound Sentence is made up of two or more simple sentences (also called independent clauses) that are joined by a coordinate conjunction, punctuation, or both.

ex. The man’s tuxedo was pink, but his suede shoes were blue.

A Complex Sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

ex. Although the bride was wearing white, the groom’s tuxedo was pink.

As much as he loved to drive, highways terrified him!

A Compound-Complex Sentence contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

ex. Although the bride was wearing white, the groom’s tuxedo was pink and his suede shoes were blue.

Marissa is going to go to University and she is going to take the Education program as soon as she can.

The man couldn’t swim, he loved to try, but always ended up struggling.

TYPES OF SENTENCES

A Declarative Sentence makes a statement. It tells something about a person, a place, a thing, or an idea.

ex. Bluevale Collegiate Institute is a wonderful high school.

My cat can climb the fridge

The floor is white.

Alex is a jokester.

An Interrogative Sentence asks a question.

ex. How much is that monkey in the window?

Will you go to prom with me?

Can you give me an example of a question?

Why do the leaves change colour?

Why is the sky blue?

An Imperative Sentence gives a command. It often contains an understood subject (i.e. you).

ex. Do your homework before dinner.

Leave your backpack in the classroom.

An Exclamatory Sentence communicates strong emotion or surprise.

ex. That movie was absolutely thrilling! I love Disney World!

Don’t wear my clothes!

It’s a trap!

TYPES OF ESSAYS

There are four main types of informal essays:

1) DESCRIPTIVE ESSAYS

A descriptive essay uses descriptive language to paint a picture or vividly describe a person, place, or object. Descriptive essays often use specific details to appeal to a reader’s senses, as well as imagery and figurative language (metaphor, simile).

• Person: describe your best friend/your favourite teacher/you coach/teammate/sibling (favourite of most “loathed”)/someone who taught you something really important/someone who really bugs you/your favourite actor/band/singer/athlete

• Place: your room/your locker/your house/your neighbourhood/the bottom of your backpack/your favourite handout/your favourite vacation spot/a classroom/the cafeteria

• Object: a pet/a book/a movie/a video game/a treasured possession/a pet peeve/poster/billboard/photograph/a favourite pen/piece of jewellery

2) NARRATIVE ESSAYS

A narrative essay tells a story. We tell stories to reflect on an experience, to share with others, and to entertain. Narrative essays need to be relevant to those people reading them so they must have a specific focus, thesis, or “message”. The thesis may be overt (stated) or implied.

• When you found out that there is no Santa Clause/Easter Bunny/Tooth Fairy, etc.

• The most embarrassing moment of your life

• The biggest mistake you every made

• A time you got hurt (physically or emotionally)

• How you learned about the “harsh realities of life”

• Coming to Canada (what your first day in Canada was like)

• The moment you “fell in love”/your first crush

• Turning point in your life/a valuable lesson learned

3) EXPOSITORY ESSAYS

An expository essay refers to any well organized piece of writing that explains a thing, a process, or an idea to readers. Also, a thesis must be stated clearly and supporting points must be ordered logically.

• How to eat a burrito/brush your teeth/entertain a young child/get in shape/get good marks/do your hair every morning

• The causes of acid rain/acne/hiccups/snoring/cheating/child abuse

• Kinds of fads/music/commercials/heroes/chores

• Definition of a browner/generation gap/loyalty

• Social, environmental, historical, political – value, issue, situation

4) PERSUASIVE ESSAYS

Unlike an expository essay which explains an author’s understanding of his subject, a persuasive essay tries to convince readers that the author’s opinion or point of view is the correct one. The author is making a value judgment and arguing only one side of a given topic.

• Why school uniform aren’t a good idea

• Something that is unfair

• Something that needs to be improved

• Something that deserves support

• Why 8:19 isn’t a good time for school

• Why exams should be abolished or should be at least 30% of report card mark

• Social, environmental, political, religious, issue