

Writing Sentences → Improving Sentence Structure

Level: High School

A complete sentence must have an independent clause. In addition, independent and subordinate clauses may be added to the sentence through the use of coordinating and subordinating conjunctions (and punctuation). Sometimes sentences with several clauses link information in a way that improves flow and gives greater meaning to the words, but be careful! Sometimes too many subordinate clauses lead to loose sentences, which can wander and be difficult to understand. A loose sentence may need to be broken into several different sentences.

Read the loose sentences below. Rewrite the passage, breaking it into several sentences that maintain the meaning of the original passage.

1. He went to the lake because there everything was the same and he could forget about what happened that night when she ran away before he had a chance to tell her how he felts and she was sent back to Texas.

2. Phyllis Wheatley was born a slave in colonial Boston unusually, the family saw that she was taught to read and write so that even though she did not have her freedom and could not sit with the family in church, she had skills that most slaves were not allowed and eventually she put her knowledge to use and wrote poems that were so fine they were published in England.

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3. When you make a loaf of bread, you should start with your ingredients at room temperature because if some are cold, the bread will rise more slowly than if everything is warm but you must not use hot water because water that is too hot will kill the yeast and then the bread will not rise at all.

4. The building was taller than all the other buildings around it, and it had an ominous feel, perhaps it was because of the the way the windows were arranged, just two of them on the top floor with decorative brickwork seeming to make furrowed brows, and then the middle floor's single tall window forming a nose with a great maw of a mouth below formed by the doorway.

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