

22. TITLE:

SHORT

SENTENCES

EXAMPLES:

- a. Then it happened.
- b. Everything failed.
- c. Oh no!
- d. Stop ... s ... stop!

EXPLANATION:

Short sentences are formed with one, two or three words. Many one word sentences are, in fact, interjections which demand an exclamation mark: (necessary when the single word is uttered when shocked, surprised, angry, upset worried etc.).

e.g.

Ouch! Help! Ugh!

One, two or three word sentences are only useful if they are used in the following contexts:

1. After several long sentences (for dramatic effect)
2. As a way of developing tension within the plot: *That wasn't all.*
3. As an authorial intrusion: *It's true.*

4. In speech, between characters, to indicate tension:

“Up there.”
“Where?”
“At the window.”
“What?”
“A gun!”

TEACHING TIPS:

Focus on modelling this sentence type in context. If taught effectively, there will be much discussion of the writing which precedes and the writing which follows the short sentence (or sentences). In narrative it is useful to link short sentences and dilemma.

Although they should not be overused, ellipsis marks (three full stops in a row) can be used to indicate a stutter, itself indicative of fear. (See example d. on previous page.)