

Writing Clear Sentences - Exercise

Relate Sentences in a Passage to Each Other by Repeating Key Terms

Write sentences in which you repeat key terms from previous sentences before you give new information. A sentence is clearer if "old" information from a previous sentence comes first, usually in the subject, and the new information follows, usually in the predicate.

Examples:

Second sentence does not begin with "old" information:

Melissa received many gifts for her birthday. The bracelet was her favorite gift.

Second sentence does begin with "old" information:

Melissa received many gifts for her birthday. Her favorite gift was the bracelet.

Repeating the "old" information (the word *gift*) near the beginning of the second sentence helps the reader understand how the second sentence relates to the previous sentence.

Exercise A:

Revise the second sentence by repeating "old" information from the first sentence near the beginning of the second sentence.

1. Using his graphics program, David prepared a graph for his economics class. Interest rates over the past ten years were charted in the graph.
2. The college administration is seeking funding for several new facilities. A new science building is the most needed facility.
3. The author presents three reasons why students prefer writing their papers on the computer. Ease of revision is the first reason.
4. The ozone layer prevents dangerous ultraviolet rays from reaching the earth's surface. Serious problems such as skin cancer and cataracts are caused by these rays.

5. College students face many challenges. Adjusting to increased freedom and independence is the most crucial challenge.

6. Carolyn has decorated her apartment with many lovely plants. The dracaena is the plant that requires the most care.

7. There are several opportunities for advancement in our company. Taking part in our staff development program is one way to advance.

8. Regular exercise is an effective way to keep healthy. Losing weight through regular exercise is often effective.

Exercise B

Revise one of your essays, repeating key terms to show how sentences relate to each other. Discuss your revisions with your instructor.