

# Language, Sentences and Punctuation in Analytical Writing

## DEVELOPING ANALYTICAL WRITING SKILLS

A considerable amount of language, sentence writing and punctuation skills are required to communicate your ideas clearly in analytical writing. In this chapter you will learn how to:

- write clear clauses
- add information in sentences
- use effective punctuation
- reference quotations in writing
- reference other people's work
- create a bibliography.

For analytical responses, complex sentences are generally used, whereas a variety of sentences can be used in imaginative writing. It depends on your purpose and audience. You might like to look at Chapter 2: Analytical Writing for some more information on the structure of analytical texts.

Note: the writing components in this section are not an exhaustive list, but rather have been chosen as they are the most common components of analytical writing. Therefore, they may be useful to the writer to ensure clarity of expression.

Let us now revise some basic components of analytical writing. The information below will assist you.

### How to write clear clauses

Sentences are made up of one or more clauses, which are in turn made up of word groups. It is important to construct your sentences in a way that makes your ideas transparent and free of confusion. Every sentence will contain at least one main clause. This means that the clause can stand alone. Clauses contain a single idea in a sentence. You can have numerous clauses to make up a sentence. The other thing about a clause is that it must contain a verb and usually a subject and an object. You may remember a verb being described as a doing word, but it is much more than that. Verbs are also thinking, saying, feeling, listening and being words. Clauses stage and connect the ideas with each other in order to maintain the thread of meaning through the sentence.

Clauses come in a variety of forms. These include:

**An independent clause:** this is the most basic form of a clause and it can form a simple sentence. Another name for an independent clause is a simple clause. Independent clauses contain a main idea and work independently of other clauses to present information. Usually a sentence will build around an independent clause. You must have at least one independent clause for the sentence to make sense.

For example:

The boat	sailed	across	the sea.
subject	verb	preposition	object

**A compound clause:** this is when two or more independent or simple clauses are joined together, using a conjunction, such as 'and'.

For example:

The boat sailed across the sea	and	it looked glorious.
independent clause	conjunction	independent clause

**A complex clause using a dependent clause:** sentences become more complex when you add more clauses. Dependent clauses add information to an independent or other dependent clause, usually about when, where, why or how something happened. Another name for a dependent clause is a subordinate clause. A dependent clause is one that cannot stand on its own – it needs the independent clause for the sentence to make sense. The dependent clause begins with a conjunction like, 'while', 'but', 'which'.

For example:

The boat sailed across the sea	while the sun shone brightly.
independent clause	dependent clause beginning with a conjunction

**A complex clause using an embedded clause:** an embedded clause is one where a clause is situated within another clause. Commas are used to indicate that another clause is being embedded.

For example:

The boat,	which was from Australia,	sailed across	the sea.
subject of independent clause	embedded clause	verb of independent clause	object of independent clause

## Activity

1. Look at the following clauses. Identify if they are independent, compound, complex using a dependent clause or complex using an embedded clause.
  - Slessor's 'Five Visions of Captain Cook' was included in a booklet, *Trio* (1931) and in 1939 the small paperback *Five Bells: XX Poems* appeared.
  - The family moved to Sydney in 1903.
  - Kenneth Adolf Slessor (1901-1971), who was a poet and a journalist, was born on 27 March 1901 in Orange, New South Wales.
  - Slessor felt at home in the urban culture of Sydney as he had little interest in life in the bush.
2. For each sentence, explain why you chose the type of clause you did.
3. Write your own sentences about the literary text this book is about with an independent clause, compound clause, complex sentence using a dependent clause and complex sentence using an embedded clause.
4. Read the example of a body paragraph below exploring the text discussed in this book. Complete the following tasks:
  - label the paragraph with the following types of clauses: independent, compound, complex using a dependent clause or complex using an embedded clause.
  - Are there any ways you could improve this paragraph to make the meaning clearer? What would you change?

Note: You may also complete this activity for a paragraph you have written yourself about the text explored in this book.

First appearing in *One Hundred Poems: 1919-1939 Kenneth Slessor* (1944), 'Wild Grapes' continues Slessor's exploration of modernist ideas, such as loss and memory, addressed in many of Slessor's poems through creating a sense of longing for a time that will never be again. In this poem, Slessor deals with loss and death through the imagery of the passing of time in an orchard that once was flourishing with cherries, but is now neglected and overgrown with wild grapes. His perception of that time is full of beauty, futility and emotional turmoil. He also explored modernist ideas about the connection between place and the understanding of self. In this poem, Slessor explicitly explores the notion of wildness of place. In particular, Slessor engages in a conversation with the reader about memory & ghosts, thereby exploring the way that memory not only takes place in the mind, but how it is recollected by the experience of place. His use of a semi-ballad style is reminiscent of writing about Australian pastoral landscapes, which appears to be a deviation from Slessor's preoccupation with urban landscapes explored in many of his other poems.