

Short Sentences

Speaking and
Listening



Can you think of any reasons we might want to write shorter sentences?

To Summarise

To make notes

To edit for effect

To write headlines



Summarising

involves writing a complete sentence, but getting down to the essence of a longer sentence



Anybody wanting to conquer part of the country would have to capture the castles in it before they could move on to other areas, because the soldiers who lived in the castle controlled the surrounding countryside by riding out to frighten anyone who complained about the local baron.

Whoever controlled the castle controlled the surrounding countryside.



Note Taking

does not require the writing of full sentences



Anybody wanting to conquer part of the country would have to capture the castles in it before they could move on to other areas, because the soldiers who lived in the castle controlled the surrounding countryside by riding out to frighten anyone who complained about the local baron.

soldiers use castle as base to frighten complaining neighbours so, control the castle = control the countryside



Editing - for effect

means making judgements about the effectiveness of the original writing, and deciding that you can improve on it



Anybody wanting to conquer part of the country would have to capture the castles in it before they could move on to other areas, because the soldiers who lived in the castle controlled the surrounding countryside by riding out to frighten anyone who complained about the local baron.

If a baron wanted to take over part of the country, he first had to take control of the castle, so that he could use it as a base to intimidate local inhabitants.

Editing - for effect

Shorten this passage:

Rivers have a lot of water in them. There is so much water that they fill up the oceans. The amount of water comes from having a lot of rain and there are also lakes that feed rivers water too. The more rain there is, the more rain there is in the rivers. Smaller streams like the one in the picture are called tributaries. Tributaries are smaller bodies of water that go into rivers.



Editing - for effect

Shorten this passage:

The boy walked up to the old house. It was a really large house with many windows. Lots of the windows were broken and the wood of the house was worn and damaged. When he was walking to the house there was a bump inside somewhere. The bump sound that he heard was loud and it was also quite a scary noise that made him jump. Eventually he got to the door and although he was scared and still shaking from hearing the bump that he had heard, he knocked on the door. No one answered, so he knocked on the door. Still no one answered so he knocked on the door again.



Dont over do it! Good writing needs a variety of carefully chosen short and long sentences. What do you think of this?

It was midnight. It was silent. The villagers were asleep. A sound was heard. They woke up. A dragon was outside. It blew fire and landed on the bridge. A knight turned up and stabbed it with his sword. He felt sad.

