

## Improve Writing Fluency

Fluent writing flows easily and engages your readers. One way to improve your fluency is to increase your sentence variety.

Consider the following when creating your own pieces of writing:

- Use a combination of short and long sentences. Short sentences cause the reader to pick up their reading pace, say for an action scene. Long sentences require readers to slow down and think.
- Vary the types of sentences you use (statements, questions and exclamations). Having too many statements bore readers while having questions tend to involve the reader. Short exclamations break up longer explanations.
- Combine short sentences into compound or complex sentences to make your writing less choppy. *See notes on sentence structure from unit three.*
- Vary the beginnings of sentences so you don't have a long string of sentences beginning the same way.
- Use transition words effectively to bridge sentences. *See five paragraph notes from unit two.* Be sure not to use too many transitional words as it can confuse the reader or use the same one too much as it becomes redundant.

**Note:** it is important to read your writing aloud in order to check that it's fluent. Ask yourself: How does it sound? Do my ideas flow naturally? Have I used transitional words to connect ideas logically?