Skillswise Factsheet

More information on sentence construction

Commas and joining words

It is a common mistake to link two sentences by using a comma.

Eg: Sam ran home, she was still late.
The comma here should be a full stop.

Short sentences are fine, but if you want to link 2 sentences, use a **joining word** (conjunction) like 'and', 'but', 'because', etc.

Eg: Sam ran home but she was still late.

Describing words

You can also make sentences longer and more interesting by adding describing words, like adjectives and adverbs.

- An adjective describes a noun, eg '**hungry** cat'.
- An adverb describes a verb, eg 'ran **quickly**'.

'The starving cat quickly ate the food.'
'Starving' is the adjective, 'quickly' is the adverb.

Order

- It is important to put the words in the right order.
- This makes the sentence clear and easy for the reader to understand.
- You can often change the word order to make the sentence clearer.

'**Starving**, the cat quickly ate the food' makes the reader understand how **hungry** the cat is.

'**Quickly** the starving cat ate the food' makes the reader understand how **fast** it ate.

Which is better?
'Making a sentence as clear as you can is important.'
'It's important to make a sentence as clear as you can.'

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