

Guinan/20 Sentence Journal

Varying sentence lengths can create a pleasing rhythm, much like music. Variation can make writing more enjoyable to read, as it flows more naturally and mimics the varied patterns of natural speech.

Your mission: write a **short story** in 20 sentences, according to the below word count per sentence:

Sentence 1: 3 words Sentence 2: 16 words Sentence 3: 8 words Sentence 4: 5 words Sentence 5: 8 words Sentence 6: 13 words Sentence 7: 5 words Sentence 8: 10 words Sentence 9: 5 words Sentence 10: 10 words.	Sentence 11: 7 words Sentence 12: 18 words Sentence 13: 3 words Sentence 14: 16 words Sentence 15: 7 words Sentence 16: 7 words. Sentence 17: 12 words Sentence 18: 17 words Sentence 19: 2 words Sentence 20: 5 words
--	---

Here's an example:

(3) Darkness enveloped everything. (16) The storm had knocked out power to the entire town, leaving it eerily quiet and cold. (8) "It's too dark," whispered Nadia, her voice trembling.

(5) She fumbled for a flashlight. (8) The dim light barely pierced the inky blackness.

(12) Rain hammered against the windows, a relentless reminder of the tempest outside.

(5) "We need candles," Antonio said.

(13) They rummaged through drawers, finding only one, an old red stick like dynamite. (5) It flickered weakly, casting shadows. (10) Outside, the thunder grumbled ominously; the hungry storm wasn't finished.

(11/7) "I still have no service," she said. (12/18) She could see the glint of light in his eyes, and for the first time, she felt afraid.

(13/3)The storm quieted. (14/16)She remembered the reason they'd run away in the first place: he wasn't one of them.




(15/7)"You think they'll find us?" Antonio said. (16/7)The candlelight reflected on his dark skin.

(17/12)She could hear it in his voice, he truly cared for her.

(18/17)She fiddled with the gold ring on her finger; she was reassured by its warm, smooth feel. (19/2)It fit.

(20/5)"I hope not," said Nadia.

Pro tip: Strive to DESCRIBE: favor imagery, strong verbs.

100	90	85	80	70
				
AWESOME!	SOLID!	BASIC		
typical responses that earn a demonstration of: - creativity -creative understanding of the task at hand -specific detail -control over conventions - variety of sentence structures - fun use of language, such as unique word choice or figurative language -appropriate length -read to the class	typical responses that earn a demonstration: -solid understanding of the task at hand -gets the job done! -perhaps a lapse here or there in conventions -perhaps a little on the short side, but what is there is good	typical responses that earn a demonstration: -perhaps incomplete understanding of the task at hand -a lack of development -writing that just fills space, i.e. the "blah blah blahs" -a lack of control over organization (i.e. no paragraphs) , Conventional errors		

