

Mini Lesson #1

Sentence Fluency What Is It?

Things you need to achieve fluency:

-
- Variety - different kinds and numbers of things.
 - Variety in sentence fluency is a number of different lengths, beginnings, and kinds of sentences.

-
- long and stretchy sentences
 - A long time ago, at Christmastime, every year my whole family would go all the way down to Colorado to go to Aunt Angie's house.
 - short and snappy sentences
 - Every Christmas we had a great time.

-
- Start sentences with a variety of beginnings
 - I am really happy to be your teacher. I hope we have fun this year. I will teach you many new things. I am happy you are in my class.
 - How would you change this paragraph?
 - I am thrilled to be your teacher. This year will be full of fun and learning. It is exciting to have you in my class.

Kinds of sentences:

simple - one _____ thought

A cow eats grass.

compound - _____ or more simple sentences

The cow eats grass and moos at the dog.

declarative - statement

Cows and dogs don't get along.

interrogatives - _____

Do cows live in the city?

exclamatory - exclamation

I am so excited about seeing a cow!

imperative - _____

Don't feed the cows in this pasture.

Rating of 5

- ☐ The writer has an easy flow and rhythm. Sentences are well built.
- ☐ Sentences enhance meaning
- ☐ Sentences vary in length as well as structure
- ☐ Purposeful and varied sentence beginnings
- ☐ Creative and appropriate connectives
- ☐ The writing has cadence

Rating of 3

- ☐ The text hums with a steady beat, but tends to be more pleasant or business like than musical.
- ☐ Sentences get the job done in a routine fashion
- ☐ Sentences are usually constructed correctly
- ☐ Sentence beginnings are not ALL alike; some variety is attempted
- ☐ The reader sometimes has to hunt for clues
- ☐ Parts of the text invite expressive oral reading; others may be stiff, awkward, choppy, or gangly.

Rating of 1

- ☐ The reader has to practice quite a bit in order to give this paper a fair interpretive reading.
- ☐ Sentences are choppy, incomplete, rambling, or awkward. Phrasing does not sound natural.
- ☐ No "sentence sense" present
- ☐ Sentences begin the same way
- ☐ Endless connectives
- ☐ Does not invite expressive oral reading