

# WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

## The Boom

### 1. Fragments and Sentences I

Starting at the very beginning, do you know the difference between a 'fragment' and a 'sentence'?

1. In the following, which are the fragments and which are the sentences?

- the average income per head increased by 27%
- the invention of bakelite
- Hollywood, Charlie Chaplin, the 'talkies' and cinemas, jazz clubs and speakeasies
- I am told that every fourth person here owns a car
- fridges, washing machines, dishwashers, vacuum cleaners, record players
- increased prosperity increased prosperity

2. Convert the fragments into sentences in the simplest way possible.

If you found Tasks 1&2 difficult, or did not know how to distinguish between a 'fragment' and a 'sentence', go to your English teacher and ask them to explain. How can you expect to write a good essay if you do not even know what a 'sentence' is?

The building blocks of a basic expository sentence are: Who? What? When? and Where? You do not need all four elements in every sentence, but being able to do so will help your writing more interesting and more concise.

3. Identify the Who, What, When and Where of the following sentence:

- Felix von Luckner was a German war-hero who visited America on a speaking tour in 1926.

4. Use the information on this page to make half-a-dozen more simple Who, What, When and Where sentences.

To do task 4, you will have needed to take elements from different parts of my text, and probably to infer information for yourself. Did you notice how familiar you became with the content! Transferring the information in a text into simple Who, What, When and Where sentences is one way to improve your understanding of a text AND to end up with a set of simple notes.

You will have noticed that I write in dense, complex sentences. If you do the Writing Development exercises attached to the webpages in this unit, you will learn the tricks to be able to do so.