4.1 Sentence Variety for Effect: 10-minute Pack

about 10 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

Nightfall on the Ridge

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). Written specifically for this worksheet as a short narrative extract for sentence-variety practice.

By four o'clock the light had already begun to fail. Cloud rolled in from the west, thick and slow, swallowing the tops of the hills one by one. Mia checked her watch, then her map, then the darkening sky. Two hours to the car. Maybe less if she hurried.

Although she had walked this ridge a hundred times before, in sunshine and in drizzle, with friends and completely alone, she had never walked it with the wind rising like this. Should she turn back now, while the path was still visible, or press on and risk the last steep section in the dark?

Somewhere below, a dog barked twice and fell silent. The silence that followed was worse than the barking had been.

Rain arrived first as a fine mist, then as proper drops, then, without warning, as a hard, driving sheet that stung her face and turned the path to a thin brown river. She pulled her hood tight; she quickened her pace; she did not look back.

When the rain finally eased, Mia checked her phone, but there was no signal at all. At the final gate, soaked and shaking, she allowed herself one small, triumphant laugh. She had made it. The car, when she reached it, felt like the safest place in the world.

1 Look at these four sentences about a delayed train. Identify whether each one is a simple, compound, complex or compound-complex sentence.

(a) 'The train was late.' **(1)**

(b) 'The doors opened, and passengers surged forward.' **(1)**

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(c) 'Because the signal had failed, the service was delayed for almost an hour.' **(1)**

(d) 'When the announcement finally came, the crowd fell silent, but nobody moved towards the platform.' **(1)**

(Total for Question 1 is 4 marks)

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2 Move the underlined adverbial to the front of this sentence, adding the correct punctuation: 'Mia checked her map again, nervously.'

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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3 Identify and correct the comma splice in this sentence: 'The wind was rising, Mia zipped up her coat.'

(Total for Question 3 is 2 marks)

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4 Look at these two simple sentences: 'The shop closed early. Nobody had warned the staff.'

(a) Join them into a compound sentence using a coordinating conjunction. **(2)**

(b) Now join the same two sentences into a compound sentence using a semicolon instead of a conjunction. **(2)**

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

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Mark scheme · 4.1 Sentence Variety for Effect: 10-minute Pack

Question 1

(a) Simple sentence **B1**

(a) Answer: Simple sentence

(b) Compound sentence **B1**

(b) Answer: Compound sentence

(c) Complex sentence **B1**

(c) Answer: Complex sentence

(d) Compound-complex sentence **B1**

(d) Answer: Compound-complex sentence

Question 2

the adverbial 'Nervously' is moved to the start of the sentence **B1**

a comma is correctly placed after the fronted adverbial, cao **B1**

Answer: Nervously, Mia checked her map again.

Question 3

identifies that two independent clauses have been wrongly joined by a comma alone (a comma splice) **B1**

correct rewrite using a full stop, a semicolon, or a comma plus a coordinating conjunction, e.g. 'The wind was rising, so Mia zipped up her coat.', oe **B1**

Answer: The wind was rising, so Mia zipped up her coat. (Equally accepted: 'The wind was rising; Mia zipped up her coat.' or 'The wind was rising. Mia zipped up her coat.')

Question 4

(a) an appropriate coordinating conjunction is used (e.g. but, yet), oe **B1**

(a) a comma is correctly placed before the coordinating conjunction, cao **B1**

(a) Answer: The shop closed early, but nobody had warned the staff.

(b) the two independent clauses are joined using a semicolon **B1**

(b) no coordinating conjunction is added and no capital letter follows the semicolon, cao **B1**

(b) Answer: The shop closed early; nobody had warned the staff.

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