

Name:

Date:

Section:

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Score:

Vary Sentence Lengths: 10-Sentence Challenge

Write a short story that uses different sentence lengths and sentence structures to make your storytelling more interesting.

Sentence 1 – Very Short Sentence (1-3 words):

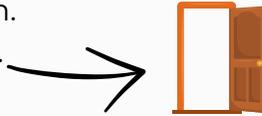
Write a brief sentence that creates instant tension or curiosity.

Example: Too late.

Sentence 2 – Simple Sentence (5-7 words):

Describe one clear, specific action.

Example: I shoved the door open.



Sentence 3 – Compound Sentence:

Join two complete thoughts using and, but, or, so.

Example: The bell rang, but my feet kept moving.



Sentence 4 – Complex Sentence:

Begin with when, because, although, while, or if to add depth.

Example: When the lights flickered, the room went silent.

Sentence 5 – Long Descriptive Sentence (15+ words):

Slow the moment down using sensory details (sight, sound, touch, smell).

Example: Cold air pricked my skin as the wind screamed through the broken window and dust drifted across the hallway.

Sentence 6 – Fragment:

Use a sentence fragment for emphasis or intensity.

Example: Heart pounding.



Sentence 7 – Dialogue Sentence:

Include one line of dialogue that adds tension or mystery.

Example: "Who are you?" a voice asked from the end of the hallway.

Sentence 8 – Internal Question:

Ask a question that reveals fear, doubt, or a split-second decision.

Example: What was happening?



Sentence 9 – Parallel Structure:

Repeat a grammatical pattern using at least three actions or ideas.

Example: I stepped into the hallway, locked eyes with a young woman, and screamed.

Sentence 10 – Strong Ending (8-12 words):

End with a reveal, twist, realization, or emotional punch.

Example: I looked closer and realized the mysterious figure was my friend Sam.