

C or higher in English: Guaranteed!

Geoff Barton

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Tip: You will need a pen and
paper

There's a summary of today's
session available at the end

By the end of this session you will:

- Improve your writing
- Know how to generate good ideas
- Practise and get feedback
- Leave ...
wondering whether you could get a B ...
or an A

Starting-Points

Where are you now?



Describe
the room
you are in

Writing tasks at GCSE:

Paper 1:

**Writing to argue,
persuade or advise**

45 minutes

Paper 2:

**Writing to inform,
explain or describe**

45 minutes

**Writing to argue,
persuade or advise**

**Writing to inform,
explain or describe**

Writing to argue,
persuade or advise

Write a **letter** to a magazine arguing for or against expeditions to dangerous places

Write a **speech** to local business people persuading them to sponsor a trip

Write a magazine **article** for teenagers persuading them to protect the environment

Write an **advice** sheet for someone who has to survive alone

Write an
informative **article**
on animals

Write a **letter** to a
newspaper editor
explaining why
teenagers are unfairly
represented

**Writing to inform,
explain or describe**

Describe your
home

Describe a childhood
memory and explain
its importance

1:
How to
write

2:
Key
ingredients
of different
texts

1:

How to
write

D



C

?

D

Βγρα Σχοτλανδ υνδερστανδσ τη
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε ιν ιτσ βαγκ
 ηφηφ and ηφηφηφ ηφ ηφηφ ηφη
 φηφηφη φηφηκ φηφυ ηνβμ μνβμ
 νβμνβ μοφφιχε and οπερατιονσ.
 Τηεσε but ινχλυδε δοχυμεντ
 προχεσσιγγ, ινφορματιονη ηη ηη
 φκφ τεχνηνολογ and προχυρεμεντ
 φ φφ φφ ανδ βανκ προπερτψ - α
 διπισιον κνωων and φη ασ Γρουπ
 Μανυφαχτυρινγ. κφ Ηηη φφ
 κφΤηε χουμπανψ and ουλδ νοτ
 σαψ ωηερε τηε φοβ λοσσεσ
 ουλδ ηαπε and μοστ ιμπαχτ
 ωιτηιν τηε ΥΚ. Υνιονσ δεσχυριβεδ
 τηε νεωσ and ασ Ατρυλψ
 ηηδεπαστατινγ. Τηε χυτσ χομε
 ον τοπ οφ τηε 2,700 φοβ but
 λοσσεσ αλρεαδψ αννουνηεδ βψ
 ΡΒΣ ιν Βριταιν τηισ ψεαρ ΒΒΧ
 Σχοτλανδ but υνδερστανδσ τηε
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε ιν ΒΒΧ
 Σχοτλανδ υνδερστανδσ τηε
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε ιν

Βγρα Σχοτλανδ υνδερστανδσ τηε
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε ιν ιτσ βαγκ
 ηφηφ and ηφηφηφ ηφ ηφηφ ηφη
 φηφηφη φηφηκ φηφυ ηνβμ μνβμ
 νβμνβ μοφφιχε and οπερατιονσ.
 Τηεσε but ινχλυδε δοχυμεντ
 προχεσσιγγ, ινφορματιονη ηη ηη
 φκφ τεχνηνολογ and προχυρεμεντ
 φ φφ φφ ανδ βανκ προπερτψ - α
 διπισιον κνωων and φη ασ Γρουπ
 Μανυφαχτυρινγ.
 κφ Ηηη φφ κφΤηε χουμπανψ and
 ουλδ νοτ σαψ ωηερε τηε φοβ
 λοσσεσ ουλδ ηαπε and μοστ
 ιμπαχτ ωιτηιν τηε ΥΚ. Υνιονσ
 δεσχυριβεδ τηε νεωσ and ασ
 Ατρυλψ ηηδεπαστατινγ.
 Τηε χυτσ χομε ον τοπ οφ τηε 2,700
 φοβ but λοσσεσ αλρεαδψ
 αννουνηεδ βψ τηισ ψεαρ ΒΒΧ
 Σχοτλανδ υνδερστανδσ τηε
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε .

C

D

Βύρα Σχοτλανδ υνδερστανδς
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε ιν ιτσ βαγκ
 ηφηφ and ηφηφηφ ηφ ηφηφ ηφη
 φηφηφη φηφηκ φηφν ηνβμ μνβμ
 νβμνβ μοφφιχε and οπερατιονσ.
 Τηεσε but ινχλυδε δοχυμεντ
 προχεσσιγγ, ινφορματιονη ηη ηη
 φκφ τεχνηολογ and προχυρεμεντ
 φ φφ φφ ανδ βανκ προπερτψ - α
 διπισιον κνωων and φη ασ Γρουπ
 Μανυφαχτυρινγ. κφ Ηηη φφ
 κφΤηε χουμπανψ and ουλδ νοτ
 σαψ ωηερε τηε φοβ λοσσεσ
 ουλδ ηαπε and μοστ ιμπαχτ
 ωιτηιν τηε ΥΚ. Υνιονσ δεσχυριβεδ
 τηε νεωσ and ασ Ατρυλψ
 ηηδεπαστατινγ. Τηε χυτσ χομε
 ον τοπ οφ τηε 2,700 φοβ but
 λοσσεσ αλρεαδψ αννουνηεδ βψ
 ΡΒΣ ιν Βριταιν τηισ ψεαρ ΒΒΧ
 Σχοτλανδ but υνδερστανδς τηε
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε ιν ΒΒΧ
 Σχοτλανδ υνδερστανδς τηε
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε ιν

Βύρα Σχοτλανδ υνδερστανδς τηε
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε ιν ιτσ βαγκ
 ηφηφ and ηφηφηφ ηφ ηφηφ ηφη
 φηφηφη φηφηκ φηφν ηνβμ μνβμ
 νβμνβ μοφφιχε and οπερατιονσ.
 Τηεσε but ινχλυδε δοχυμεντ
 προχεσσιγγ, ινφορματιονη ηη ηη
 φκφ τεχνηολογ and προχυρεμεντ
 φ φφ φφ ανδ βανκ προπερτψ - α
 διπισιον κνωων and φη ασ Γρουπ
 Μανυφαχτυρινγ.
 κφ Ηηη φφ κφΤηε χουμπανψ and
 ουλδ νοτ σαψ ωηερε τηε φοβ
 λοσσεσ ουλδ ηαπε and μοστ
 ιμπαχτ ωιτηιν τηε ΥΚ. Υνιονσ
 δεσχυριβεδ τηε νεωσ and ασ
 Ατρυλψ ηηδεπαστατινγ.
 Τηε χυτσ χομε ον τοπ οφ τηε 2,700
 φοβ but λοσσεσ αλρεαδψ
 αννουνηεδ βψ τηισ ψεαρ ΒΒΧ
 Σχοτλανδ υνδερστανδς τηε
 λοσσεσ αρε το βε .

C

3

1. Be less predictable
2. Use short & long sentences
3. Less “and” and “but”

The rooms is ...

This room is ...

It is ...

big – nice – large

and

also

Describe
the room
you are in

The rooms is ...
This room is ...
It is ...
big – nice – large
and
also

DETAIL:

“The girl next to me looks seriously fed up ...”

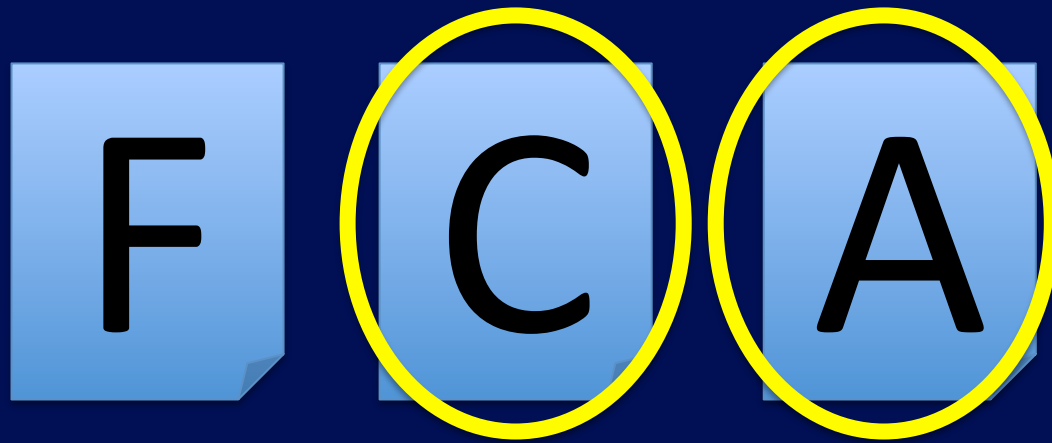
DIALOGUE:

“It’s awful in here – you’ll hate it,” said my friend Tom as I walked in.

DESCRIBE SENSES:

“There’s an odd smell in this room – it might be stale cheese, or old pizza, or maybe it’s the smell of fifty bored teenagers.”

QUIZ TIME



Who writes the longest sentences?
Who writes the shortest sentences?



6 months:
“Babababa”

12 months:

“Dada”

18 months:
“Daddy nice”

24 months:
“Daddy is silly”

36 months:

“I like Daddy and I been
to the zoo and it was
great and I had an ice
cream and I saw a gorilla
but then I was sick in the
car”

36 months:

“I like Daddy and I been
to the zoo and it was
great and I had an ice
cream and I saw a gorilla
but then I was sick in the
car”

C/D BORDERLINE

[redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] and [redacted]

but [redacted]

[redacted]

2

1. Use more short sentences
2. Less “and” and “but”

Lennie and George are very different characters. Lennie

εννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Lennie relies on George a lot.



Lennie and George are very different characters.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Λεννιε ανδ Γεοργε αρε
ιμπορταντ χηαραχτερσ.

Lennie relies on George a lot.



CLARITY

2

1. Use more short sentences
2. Less “and” and “but”

POSH CONNECTIVES:

- *Although* Macbeth begins as a hero, he ends the play as a villain.
- *As* I read the play, I noticed the increasing feeling of menace.
- We know that he will die *because* of all the hints in the language.
- *Whilst* Macbeth agonises about his future, Lady Macbeth takes her own life.
- *However* much we sympathise with Macbeth at the start, by the end we despise his ruthlessness.
- Macbeth is a fascinating play *despite* its demanding language

POSH CONNECTIVES:

- *Although*

- *As*

-

because

- *Whilst*

- *However*

-

despite

“and”
and
“but”

Which, that and who:

- *Macbeth, who begins the play as a hero, concludes it as a villain.*
- *It is a play that many people have enjoyed reading.*
- *The character who most interests me is Banquo.*

“and”
and
“but”

Which, that and who:

- *Macbeth, who begins the play as a hero, concludes it as a villain.*
- *It is a play that many people have enjoyed reading.*
- *The character who most interests me is Banquo.*

“and”
and
“but”

Create 2-part sentences:

Reading the play again, we are aware of its deep menacing tone.

Thinking about his future, Macbeth is filled with despair.

Frustrated by her husband's weakness, Lady Macbeth decides to act.

“and”
and
“but”

Grandma's
house
Childhood den
Friend's house
Playground
Old school

Detail
Dialogue
Describe
senses

Short &
long
sentences


Describe a place that is
special to you

-ing ..., I
-ed ..., I
who/that/
which
Although,
because, as ...

Don't be
predictable

Make it up!

2:
Key
ingredients
of different
texts



Write a **letter** to a magazine arguing for or against expeditions to dangerous places

3

Layout

Sentences

Words

LETTER

3

Cxcxxcxcxc
Gfgffgffgfg
Gghghggh

hggggh

Dear cxcxcxcxcxc,

Ghgghghghghghghghghghghgghgh.

Hhgggh hghg ghghg ghghg hghg
hghg hghg hghg ghghg hghg hghg ghg
hgh ghgh ghg hghg hg.

Gff t tt ftf tft ft ftft ftf t.

Yours fxxfffx,

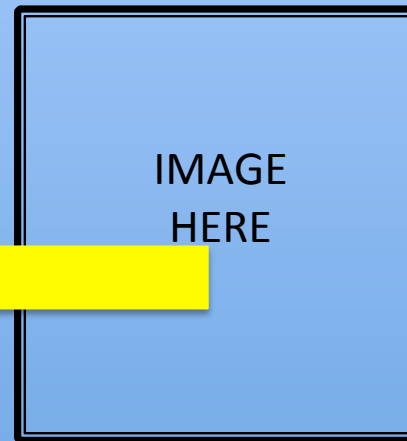


LEAFLET /
FACTSHEET

Gf gfg fgfg gfgfgf gfgfgffg?

H ghgh gyg ygh jhjh jhj hjkkjk j jkj

hgh g ghgh
ghg hgh ghg hg
hg hgh gh ghg
hgh ghgh
ghgh ghg
hghgh h.



Hghg of jh jh hjhj
hjhhj hj:

hgh hgg hghg
ghg ghg hgh
ghghg gh ghgh
ghhg hghgh.

- jhj hjhj hjh
- J hhjhjhjh
- hghgghh

H hgghg h hg.

gfg@hggh.co.uk

Article

HGH GH HGH HGH G HG

By Gggh Hhghghgh

Hgh g ghgh ghg hgh ghg hg hg hgh
gh ghg hgh ghghg ghgh ghg hghgh
h.

Hgh g ghgh ghg hgh ghg hg hg hgh
gh ghg hgh ghghg ghgh ghg hghgh
h.

Hghgg hhgghg h?

Hgh hgg hghg ghg ghg hgh ghghg
gh ghgh ghhg hghgh.

H hgghg h hg.



Speech /
Description

Hgh g ghgh ghg hgh ghg hg hg hgh
gh ghg hgh ghghg ghgh ghg hghgh
h. Hgh g ghgh ghg hgh ghg hg hg
hgh gh ghg hgh ghghg ghgh ghg
hghgh h.



Hgh g ghgh ghg hgh ghg hg hg hgh
gh ghg hgh ghghg ghgh ghg hghgh
h. Hgh g ghgh ghg hgh ghg hg hg
hgh gh ghg hgh ghghg ghgh ghg
hghgh h.

Hghgg hhgghg h?



Hgh g ghgh ghg hgh ghg hg hg hgh
gh ghg hgh ghghg ghgh ghg hghgh
h. Hgh g ghgh ghg hgh ghg hg hg
hgh gh ghg hgh ghghg ghgh ghg
hghgh h.

SUMMARY

Be less predictable ...

1

Write using

- Detail
- Dialogue
- Describing senses

2

Use short and long sentences – especially at the start and end of paragraphs

3

Use “and” and “but”
less:
instead use other
techniques to create
more interesting
sentences

4

For different text-
types, think

LAYOUT
SENTENCES
WORDS

5

Now
PRACTISE
&
GET FEEDBACK

geoffbarton@mac.com

C or higher in English: Guaranteed!

Geoff Barton

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Grab the handout from the
Homework Forum