

How Writers Shape Meaning with Sentences

Adding Detail

Mentor Sentence

Jason, his shoes still dripping from the rain, entered the warm bakery filled with the scent of fresh bread.

Sentence Breakdown

Jason — names the subject
his shoes still dripping from the rain
the warm bakery filled with the scent of fresh bread — describes the setting

Try It

Max entered the kitchen.

Rewrite it with the sentence pattern above.

Creating Contrast

Mentor Sentence

Sophia was always cheerful in public, but at home, she retreated to her room, silent and withdrawn.

What the Structure Does

- Highlights a character's complexity
- Shows opposite sides of a situation
- Signals a change

Try It

Mark acted confident with his friends.

Rewrite it with the sentence pattern above.

Building Suspense

Mentor Sentence

As the old house creaked in the night, Anna held her breath, a soft creak echoing from the attic above her.

What the Structure Does

- Highlights a sense of anticipation
- Hints at a possible danger
- Creates surprise or tension

Try It

The forest was quiet.

Rewrite it with the sentence pattern above.