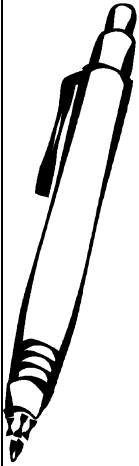


**I can create interesting characters in my stories by mixing, action, description and dialogue**



**Writing stories**  
**TOP TIPS FOR WRITERS!**

Writers tell us about their characters by:

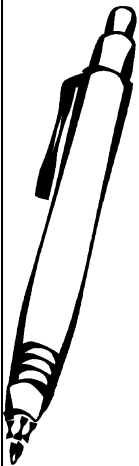
- the way the characters speak to each other
- how they behave
- the decisions they make
- the way the characters look
- the things that characters say

While watching your favourite TV programme, write down:

- Something that the characters say.
- Words to describe the characters’ emotions – are they angry, frightened, caring?



**I can create interesting characters in my stories by mixing, action, description and dialogue**



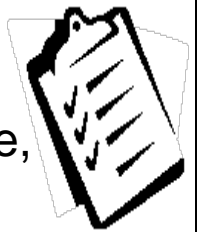
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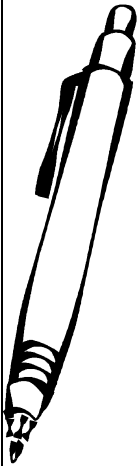
- the way the characters speak to each other
- how they behave
- the decisions they make
- the way the characters look
- the things that characters say

Think about a character in a story you know well.

- Write down a list of words to describe that character’s personality. Are they considerate, selfish, nervous?
- Think about how that character would respond in different situations. How would they act when visiting a friend? What would they do on holiday? How would they act or react when having an argument with someone?



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**Writing stories**  
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Writers tell us about their characters by:

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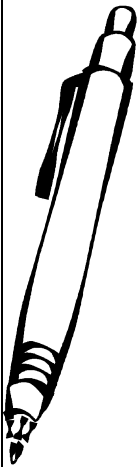
Write a story on your own or with someone else.

- Highlight in different colours



- the **action**, the **description** and the **dialogue**.
- How have these features made your writing more interesting?
- Could you make your **description** more interesting? Can you make your **action** more exciting? What does the **dialogue** tell the reader about your character?

**I can use a range of connecting words and phrases to organise my non-fiction writing**



**Writing non-fiction**  
**TOP TIPS FOR WRITERS!**

A **connective** is a word or phrase that links parts of sentences or whole sentences together.

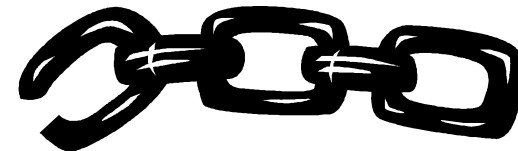
Non-fiction writing often uses connectives in particular ways.

For example, discussions or arguments often include connectives such as: *on the other hand, nevertheless, however*

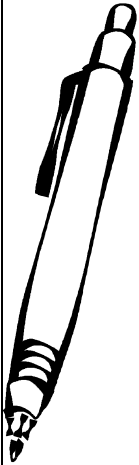
Instructions often use words such as: *first, next*

Collect some non-fiction books such as cookery books, magazines, instruction booklets, leaflets etc

- Make a list of the different connectives used at the *beginning* of sentences.
- Find connectives that are used *within* sentences.
- Could you write a new sentence using the same connectives?



**I can use a range of connecting words and phrases to organise my non-fiction writing**



**Writing non-fiction**  
**TOP TIPS FOR WRITERS!**

A **connective** is a word or phrase that links parts of sentences or whole sentences together.

Non-fiction writing often uses connectives in particular ways.

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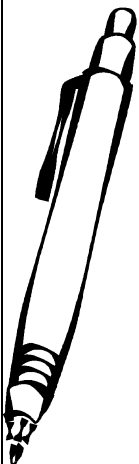
▪ Read an information text to your friend. Miss out the connectives. Can your friend suggest a connective that would help the writing to make sense?

▪ Can you sort the connectives you have found into the following groups?

- ★ TIME – e.g. meanwhile, eventually
- ★ ORDER – e.g. first of all, furthermore
- ★ A RESULT – e.g. therefore, because of this
- ★ EXPLAINING – e.g. for example, in other words
- ★ TELL ME MORE – e.g. in addition



**I can use a variety of simple and complex sentences in my writing**



**Sentence structure**  
**TOP TIPS FOR WRITERS!**

Complex sentences link information and ideas. For example,

*I walked down the street. A dog howled.*

If you change this to a complex sentence this becomes:

*As I walked down the street, a dog howled..*

How many different ways can you find to link these three simple sentences:

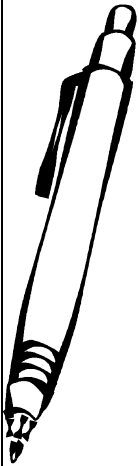
- ★ It was raining.
- ★ Fred went for a walk.
- ★ He was eaten by a monster.



Remember you could use: because, whenever, if, so, when, although.

**I can use a variety of simple and complex sentences in my writing**

**Sentence structure**  
**TOP TIPS FOR WRITERS!**



Complex sentences link information and ideas. For example,

*I walked down the street. A dog howled.*

If you change this to a complex sentence this becomes:



*As I walked down the street, a dog howled.*

★ Find five complex sentences in your reading book such as:

*As I walked down the street, a dog howled because the lights came on.*

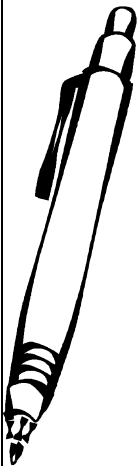
★ Turn these complex sentences back into simple sentences:

*I walked down the street. A dog howled. The lights came on.*

★ Which sounds better? The complex sentence or the simple sentences? Why?

**I can use a variety of simple and complex sentences in my writing**

**Sentence structure**  
**TOP TIPS FOR WRITERS!**



Complex sentences link information and ideas. For example,

*I walked down the street. A dog howled.*

If you change this to a complex sentence this becomes:

*As I walked down the street, a dog howled.*

★ Look for an interesting opening paragraph, perhaps from your favourite story.

★ Rewrite the paragraph using only simple sentences.

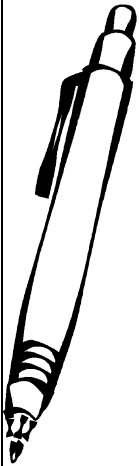
★ Read the original version and then the new version to your friend.

★ Talk about the differences between the two versions.

★ What effect do the changes have on the story and on the reader?



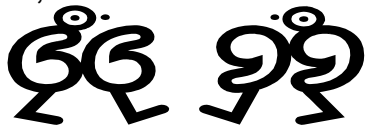
**I can use a variety of punctuation in my writing**



**Punctuation**  
**TOP TIPS FOR WRITERS!**

Punctuation is the way that writers mark text to help the reader make sense of what they read. The most commonly used punctuation marks are:

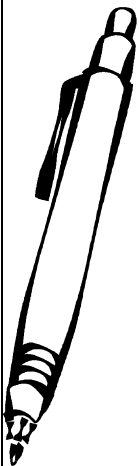
- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Full stop .        | “Speech marks” |
| Apostrophe [don't] | Ellipsis ...   |
| Exclamation mark ! | Brackets ( )   |
| Question Mark ?    | Dash –         |
| Semi-colon ;       | Colon :        |



Look at texts you have at home such as newspapers and magazines. Do a punctuation treasure hunt. How many different types of punctuation can you find?

- ★ Read a few of the sentences aloud. Think about the way that the punctuation tells you how to read the sentence. How would your voice change if you changed the punctuation? Try changing a full stop for an exclamation mark. If you changed a full stop for a question mark what other changes would you need to make to the sentence?
- ★ What job does the punctuation do in the sentence? Why does the author choose to use a dash – or brackets ( )? What effect does this have on the sentence?

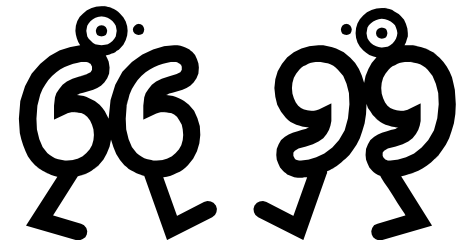
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| Question Mark ?    | Dash –         |
| Semi-colon ;       | Colon :        |



Watch your favourite TV programme and write down part of a conversation between two characters. What punctuation do you need to reflect the type of sentences (question, statement, exclamation, command) and the tone of voice each character used?