

Answer key

STEP 1: Read each sentence carefully and make note of what you notice about each sentence.

Pay attention to the type of sentence it is, any interesting punctuation, any figurative language, interesting capitalizing, and any potential root word or affixes.

1. *The room was quieter than usual, even though nothing appeared out of place:*

This is a **complex sentence**.
It has one main idea and one dependent clause.
The phrase “even though” signals contrast.
The sentence feels calm but slightly uneasy.
The comma creates a pause that slows the reader down.

2. *A chair had been moved slightly away from the table, and a notebook lay open with its last page still blank.*

This is a **compound-complex sentence**.
It contains more than one main idea.
The conjunction “and” connects the ideas.
The last phrase adds detail without explaining meaning.
The sentence feels observational and detailed.

3. *Outside, footsteps passed and faded, but inside, time seemed to stretch.*

This is a **compound sentence**.
The word “but” shows contrast.
The sentence contrasts two different experiences: outside activity and inside perception of time.
Commas help separate locations and ideas.
The structure creates tension and atmosphere.

STEP 2: Structure and Meaning

Choose **one** sentence from above and label all of the parts of speech for this sentence.

Sentence 1

The room was quieter than usual, even though nothing appeared out of place.

Possible labelling:

- The – determiner
- room – noun

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- was – verb
- quieter – adjective (comparative)
- than – conjunction / comparative marker
- usual – adjective
- even though – conjunction
- nothing – pronoun
- appeared – verb
- out – adverb
- of – preposition
- place – noun

Sentence 2

A chair had been moved slightly away from the table, and a notebook lay open with its last page still blank.

Possible labelling:

- A – determiner
- chair – noun
- had been moved – verb phrase
- slightly – adverb
- away – adverb
- from – preposition
- the – determiner
- table – noun
- and – conjunction
- a – determiner
- notebook – noun
- lay – verb
- open – adjective
- with – preposition
- its – determiner
- last – adjective
- page – noun
- still – adverb
- blank – adjective

Sentence 3

Outside, footsteps passed and faded, but inside, time seemed to stretch.

Possible labelling:

- Outside – adverb
- footsteps – noun

- passed – verb
- and – conjunction
- faded – verb
- but – conjunction
- inside – adverb
- time – noun
- seemed – verb
- to stretch – verb phrase

Accept minor variations if students identify function correctly.

STEP 3: Comparing Sentence Versions

1. Which version creates more tension or atmosphere? Why?

Version **A** creates more tension or atmosphere.

Why:

- The ideas are connected in one sentence.
- The contrast between outside and inside feels immediate.
- The sentence flows without stopping, which builds mood.

2. What structural difference causes this effect?

Version A is one compound sentence.

Version B splits the ideas into two simple sentences.

The split reduces tension and slows the emotional impact.

3. Which version fits better with the tone of the mentor sentences, and why?

Version **A** fits better.

Why:

- The paragraph focuses on atmosphere and quiet tension.
- The connected structure mirrors the stretched feeling of time.
- Version B feels more direct and less reflective.

STEP 4: Revising for Meaning

Rewrite **one** sentence from the mentor list by changing its structure while keeping the same idea.

Outside, footsteps passed and faded, but inside, time seemed to stretch.

Possible student revision:

Footsteps passed outside and slowly faded. Inside, time seemed to stretch.

OR

Time seemed to stretch inside while footsteps passed and faded outside.

- How did your revision change the meaning, emphasis, or mood?

Expected elements in a strong response:

- Student explains what feels different.
- Student mentions mood, pace, or emphasis.
- Student connects structure to meaning.

Sample response:

Splitting the sentence makes the moment feel less tense. The ideas feel more separated, so the contrast is weaker.