

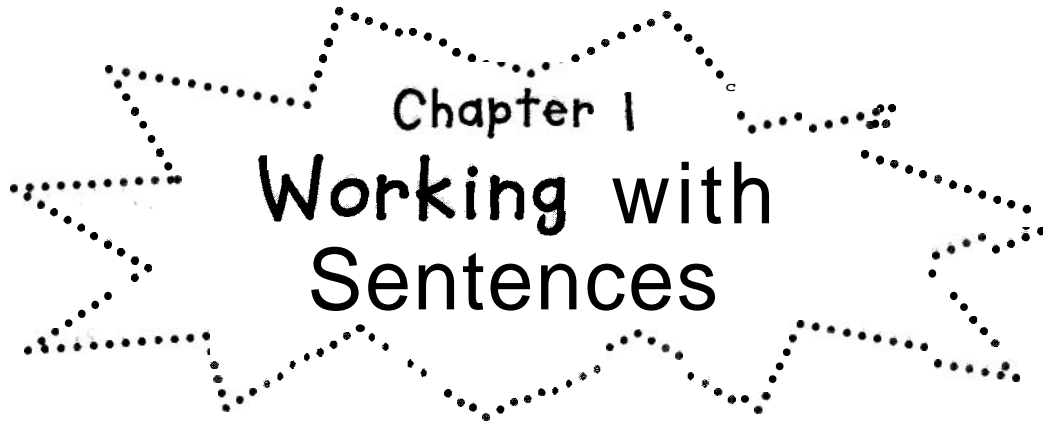
# Introduction



This book was written for your enjoyment. Have fun discovering different ways to write! Before you begin any exercise, please take the time to flip through the entire book. Notice some of the things you will be learning about, such as how to write an interesting story, how to write conversation, and how to use more interesting words.

Now take a minute to turn to the back of the book. Look at page 157 and notice the resource materials that will be helpful at different times as you progress through the writing exercises in the book. There are webs to help you organize your thoughts, content and editing checklists to help make your story the best that it can be, and a list of synonyms to help you use a variety of words.

Don't be afraid to experiment with your writing. Practice using the different maps and strategies. And just write! This will help you to learn the methods that are best for you.



Chapter 1  
**Working with  
Sentences**

Good sentences build good paragraphs and stories. You already know a lot about sentences. You know that sentences express a complete thought. You also know that sentences begin with a capital letter and end with punctuation. You know that a sentence can end with a period, a question mark, or an exclamation mark. But do you know what the two main parts of a sentence are called? There are a lot of interesting things to learn about sentences!

## **Reviewing Capitals and Basic Punctuation**

Before we begin to talk about sentences, it is important to review capitals and basic punctuation. All sentences begin with a capital letter and end with punctuation.

### **Capitals**

Always use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence. This helps your readers see where a new sentence begins.

#### Examples

1. **All** the cars stopped to let the dog cross the road.
2. He looked both ways and scampered to the other side.
3. We were very relieved.

## Practice

Rewrite these sentences with a capital letter at the beginning.

1. we had fun on the merry-go-round.

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2. the lake was very cold.

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3. maria slipped on a banana peel.

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4. that food smells very good.

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5. did they make you laugh?

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## Basic Punctuation

Use a **period** at the end of a sentence that makes a statement.

Use a **question mark** at the end of a sentence that asks a question.

Use an **exclamation mark** at the end of a sentence to express a strong feeling.

These different types of punctuation help your reader see where one sentence ends and another begins. They also help your reader understand your story by making it easier to see the feelings in your sentences.

Here are three example sentences. Notice how each one begins with a capital letter and ends with punctuation: a period, a question mark, or an exclamation mark.



**Statement:** josh and his uncle like to walk through the woods.

**Question:** Where did Regina get her ideas for her story?

**Strong feeling:** Hey, watch out for that spider!

## Practice

**Remember,** when you write a sentence:

- Begin it with a capital letter.
- End it with punctuation.

Rewrite these sentences with a capital letter at the beginning and the correct punctuation at the end.

1. have you ever watched a bird take a bath

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2. when we left the house the sun was shining

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3. you look terrific

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