

# Independent Learning Center Workshop - June 3, 2021

## Simple Ways to Write Stronger Sentences

1. Use the causative 'make' correctly.
2. You don't always need a relative clause.
3. Use more specific language - adjectives.
4. Use more specific language - nouns.
5. Use more specific language - verbs.

**I suggest using a notebook and pencil.**

**Let's go →**

# 1. Use the causative 'make' correctly.

This verb is very useful for cause/effect writing but many students use it incorrectly. Knowing the right form *will make writing your ideas easier and your essay stronger.*

Can you fix these sentences about the reasons for video game popularity?

*Let's add a little more information to make these sentences even stronger.*

- Scenario **makes** popular a video game.

*The scenario makes a video game popular. Subject – verb – object – change/effect*

*The scenario, including the story and the characters, makes a video game popular.*

- Quality graphics **make** more real game.

*Quality graphics make a game more real.*

*Quality graphics make a game more realistic, which attracts many gamers.*

## Practice #1

Write causative 'make' sentences for one or both of these topics. Try to add some extra information to take it beyond a basic sentence.

- The reasons for arguments between siblings
- The effects of being in prison

Example: The effects of success.

Basic: *Success makes a person more confident.*

Beyond Basic: *Achieving success in one area can make a person more confident to try other things.*

## 2. You don't always need a relative clause.

Relative clauses are very useful when you need to add longer details, but they are often unnecessary for adding a short idea. Using one when it isn't needed may increase your word count, but it weakens the impact of your writing.

Can you improve these phrases?

Which one can't easily be shortened?

What words are used in the shorter forms?

- People **who are playing video games**  
*Video game players*
- The people **who created the game**  
*The video game creators*
- A person **who plays video games late at night**  
*A late-night gamer*
- A person **who uses video games for social interaction**  
*{there is no simple shorter form – why?}*

### 3. Use more specific language - adjectives.

Just adding a suitable adjective can give more meaning to your writing.  
Can you improve these sentences with an adjective?

- The **scenario** makes a video game popular.
  - An exciting scenario*
  - A fantastic scenario*
  - A complex and varied scenario*
- Video games are popular because of their **graphics**.
  - realistic graphics*
  - high-quality graphics*
  - detailed graphics*

## 4. Use more specific language - nouns.

When you write “this” or “these” to refer to something mentioned earlier, you can add a noun to make it clearer.

Sometimes adding an object after a verb makes it clearer.

Can you improve this text by adding some nouns?

Video game advertisers use social media advertising. Advertisers also ask the best gamers to **write** for magazines. Thus, **these** make video games popular.

*write articles*

*these tactics*

*write reviews*

*these strategies*

Please work silently until we ask for responses!

*these advertising methods*

## 5. Use more specific language - verbs.

Avoid using general verbs, especially for cause/effect.

Can you improve this text with more specific verbs?

(You might also have to change the sentence structure.)

- Video game advertisements **affect** people easily.  
(But how are they affected?)

*Video game advertisements make people excited to play.*

- A game's marketing can **affect** its popularity.  
(But is it good or bad?)  
*improve*  
*enhance*  
*(damage)*

## Practice #2

Write a short paragraph on one of the following topics.

- The reasons why people use TikTok
- The differences between playing a video game on a phone/computer/game console (choose 2)

While writing, remember the five tips we covered:

1. Use the causative 'make' correctly
2. Only use a relative clause when you need it
3. Can you add an adjective to give detail to a noun?
4. Can you add a noun to give detail (as an object or with 'this' or 'those')?
5. Check that your verbs are not too general.



## Some other ways to practice:

- Go back to an essay you have already written, and read it again critically. Find places where you can improve your language.
- Swap essays with a friend and read each other's essays critically. Find places where the language can be improved and discuss.
- Do the error correction practice in SAS Chapter 7 to improve your skill at finding and fixing mistakes.