

# Teach Your Students How to Write a Paragraph Using the Varied Sentence Starters



## Using the Question Words as Sentence Starters:

### 1. "What" Words

**Plural Nouns** (*Stars* dotted the sky.)

**Number words** (*Six* men stood still.)

**Size words** (*Large* hills rose into the sky.)

**Shape words** (*Round* tables filled the tent.)

**Age** (*Young* men lined up for miles.)

**Colour words** (*Purple* flowers poked their noses up through the grass.)

**Description words** (*Dainty* lace flowed from the collar of the dress.)

### 2. "When" Words

\*Suddenly

\*All of a sudden

\*At that moment

\*Instantly

\*Soon

\*All at once

\*In a twinkling

\*Just then

\*In a flash/twinkle

\*Later on

\*Not too long

\*In a while

\*A short time later

\*Next

\*In a few minutes

\***Times of Day** (morning, afternoon, evening, night)

\***Seasons** (spring, summer, autumn, winter)

\***Time Periods** (once upon a time, many years ago, long ago, centuries ago, last week)

### 3. "How" Words

\***ly** words (example: Quickly, the boy snatched up his ball.)

\***ing** words (example: Soaring, the plane flew into the sky.)

### 4. "Where" Words

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### 5. "Who" Words

\***Titles** (Mr. Mrs. Miss Dr.)

\***Descriptions of characters**

**Example One:** The little old man limped along.

**Example Two:** The furry creature bounded up to my nose.

\***Names of characters** (Herbert, the horse, flicked his tail.)

\***Pronouns** (I, it, he, her, him, me, my, she, them, they, we)

## Writing a 6 Sentence Descriptive Paragraph using Varied Sentence Starters

1. Select Topic.
  2. Web nouns and verbs for 1st sentence.
  3. Model how to write a sentence using a **what** sentence starter.
  4. Have students indent and write their first sentence using a **what** sentence starter.
  5. Students share what they have written.
  6. Students edit.
  7. Process begins again at #2 with a **when** sentence starter.
- Paragraph is finished when all five sentence starters have been used up.

### Webbing Example:

1. **Topic:** Fall

### Sentence One: Web *What* Sentence Starters:

**Plural nouns:** leaves

**Number words:** millions, thousands, hundreds

**Size words:** tiny, large, huge, small

**Shape words:** round, jagged, oval, heart-shaped

**Age words:** old

**Colour words:** red, orange, burnt umber, yellow, golden

**Description words:** crunchy, bright

**Ask students:** What do fall leaves do?

**Verbs:** swirl, twirl, tumble, float, drift

3. **Model some sentences using the *what* sentence starters.**
  - a. Millions of leaves tumbled to the ground. (number word starter)
  - b. Red, orange, yellow leaves swirled in the air. (colour word starter)
  - c. Crunchy, bright golden leaves drifted in the breezes.
4. **Students write their first sentence using a *what* sentence starter.**
5. **Students share their sentence.**
6. **Students edit for a indenting, capital, period and spelling.**
7. **Process begins again with next sentence starter.**

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## Webbing Example Continued:

**Sentence Two: Choose *When* Sentence Starter.**

**Ask students:** What happens then?

**Noun:** wind, breezes

**Verbs:** gusted, whistled, swooshed, howled

**3. Model some sentences using the *when* sentence starters.**

a. Suddenly the wind began to gust.

b. Just then the little breezes whistled through the tall grasses.

c. A short time later the wind started howling.

**4. Students write their first sentence using a *when* sentence starter.**

**5. Students share their sentence.**

**6. Students edit for a indenting, capital, period and spelling.**

**7. Process begins again with next sentence starter.**

**Sentence Three: Choose *How* Sentence Starter.**

**Ask students:** What happens then?

**Noun:** bear, moose, deer

**ing Verbs:** wandering, ambling, scrambling, gliding, springing

**ly words:** quickly, slowly, hurriedly, quietly

**3. Model some sentences using the *how* sentence starters.**

a. Springing over the hills, a deer heads for the river.

b. Quietly, a bear ambles through the thickets.

c. Wandering down the path, a moose ambles into view.

**4. Students write their first sentence using a *when* sentence starter.**

**5. Students share their sentence.**

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## Webbing example continued

### Sentence Four: Choose *Where* Sentence Starter.

**Ask students:** What happens then?

**Noun:** moose, bear, deer

**Verbs:** found, spied, spotted, detected

### 3. Model some sentences using the *where* sentence starters.

- Through the bushes the bear spied a bee hive.
- Beneath the hills, the moose spotted the river.
- Deep inside the forest, the deer detected man.

### 4. Students write their first sentence using a when sentence starter.

### 5. Students share their sentence.

### 6. Students edit for a indenting, capital, period and spelling.

### 7. Process begins again with next sentence starter.

### Sentence Five: Choose *Who* Sentence Starter.

**Ask students:** What happens then?

**Noun:** the furry creature, the shy doe, the shaggy animal

**Verbs:** devoured, drank, started, bolted  
disappeared, melted, faded, slipped

### 3. Model some sentences using the *who* sentence starters.

- The furry creature devoured honey and melted into the hills.
- The shy doe bolted and slipped noiselessly into the trees.
- The shaggy animal drank quietly and slipped away into the mountains.

### 4. Students write their first sentence using a when sentence starter.

### 5. Students share their sentence.

### 6. Students edit for a indenting, capital, period and spelling.

### 7. Process begins again with next sentence starter.

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## Webbing example continued

### Sentence Six: Synonym for Topic

**Ask students:** What words will end our idea best?

**Noun:** fall, autumn, winter

**Verbs:** returns, arrives, is coming, has come again

### 3. Model some sentences using the *where* sentence starters.

a. Fall arrives again.

b. Autumn returns once again.

c. Winter is coming.

4. Students write their first sentence using a synonym for topic as the sentence starter.

5. Students share their sentence.

6. Students edit for a indenting, capital, period and spelling.

The End

## Descriptive Paragraph Model

Crunchy, bright golden leaves drift in the breezes. Suddenly the wind begins to gust. Wandering down the path, a moose ambles into view. Beneath the hills, it spies the river. The shaggy animal drinks quietly and slips away into the mountains. Autumn returns.

