

# WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write ... to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

## Background

### 1. Fragments and Sentences I

Starting at the very beginning, do you know the difference between a 'fragment' and a 'sentence'?

1. In the following, which are the fragments and which are the sentences?

- a speech by Kaiser Wilhelm to the North German Regatta Associations
- Germany and Britain clashed over the size of their navies
- although in 1914 the German army was the best in the world
- in 1902 Britain made a naval treaty with Japan
- not just an individual ruler or small group of ministers
- this often includes the influence of government by the generals

2. Convert the fragments into sentences in the simplest way possible.

3. The provenance captions to Sources A-F include both fragments and sentences. Decide which is which.

If you found Tasks 1-3 difficult, or did not know how to distinguish between a 'fragment' and a 'sentence', go to your English teacher and ask them to explain. How can you expect to write a good essay if you do not even know what a 'sentence' is?

The building blocks of a basic expository sentence are: Who? What? When? and Where? You do not need all four elements in every sentence, but being able to do so will help your writing more interesting and more concise.

4. Identify the Who, What, When and Where of the following sentence:

*In 1900 Kaiser Wilhelm announced that he wanted Germans to sail all over the world'.*

5. Use the webpage to make half-a-dozen more simple Who, What, When and Where sentences.

**TOP TIP: to do task 5, you will have needed to take elements from different parts of my text, and probably to infer information for yourself. Did you notice how familiar you became with the content! Transferring the information in a text into simple Who, What, When and Where sentences is one way to improve your understanding of a text AND to end up with a set of notes.]**

You will have noticed that I write in dense, complex sentences. If you do the Writing Development exercises attached to the webpages in this unit, it will help you learn the tricks to be able to do so.