

Week 32

English Mastery

Primary 3/4

The Write Tribe

SHOW VS TELL

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Telling sentence	Showing sentence
Jack was afraid.	As the footsteps tapped closer and closer, Tom felt his stomach muscles tighten. He flattened himself to the wall, the gritty bricks against his cheek. Sweat chilled his palms. He used both hands to steady the gun.

What's the difference?

Telling sentences tell us something. They give information but it is general, non-specific, and often vague. They don't involve the reader. **Telling sentences** are written in a dull and lifeless manner.

In the **"showing"** sentence, however, we live through the scene along with Tom. We ***hear*** the tap of footsteps. We ***feel*** the tension in his stomach, the cold dampness of his hands, and the grittiness of the brick. We ***see*** the gun in his shaking hands. We ***live*** his fear, rather than merely being told of it.

Who feels like a real person? Jack or Tom?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Which one is an example of a 'showing' sentence?

A

Jane was devastated.

B

Tears sprang out from Jane's eyes. With trembling lips, she struggled to make out the words, "Is he okay?"

A

Joshua's stomach was in knots. He could not shake off the feeling of dread following him like an ominous cloud.

B

Joshua was apprehensive.

A

Anger ricocheted though Garfield's body as he clenched his fists under the table. Rage was brewing inside of him.

B

Garfield was furious.

A

Sylvia was relieved.

B

Sylvia's face finally relaxed. She let out a sigh of relief as calmness washed over her face finally.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Secret to writing "showing" sentences

Make your readers feel?

People understand their world through their five senses. Don't just tell them the leather couch is an item of luxury. **SHOW THEM!**

SIGHT	SMELL	TOUCH	TASTE	SOUND



The couch screamed luxury. The creamy, ivory cushions were velvety soft.
personification *sight* *touch*

The sofa frame was highly decorative and finished in gold. The metal
sight

brilliantly shone under the blaring florescent lights. The sofa did not feel like
sight

furniture but a person. Someone with a regal standing. Those rich creamy

cushions were not tastefully made to hold any Tom, Dick or Harry's behind. I
personification

never imagined a piece of furniture could make me feel so unworthy.

LIVEWORKSHEETS



EMOTIONS

Tools: Emotional adjectives, Body language, Facial expressions, 5 senses, metaphors

Brenda was disappointed upon hearing the news.

Brenda's pearly white smile *sight* faded upon hearing the news. Her face fell. Her shoulders hunched *body language*. Tears replaced the delight in her eyes. *facial expressions* Disappointment was written all over her face. *emotional adjective* *metaphor*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

BREAK - IT - DOWN

Brenda felt _____ State what she feels. Use an adjective

emotional adjective

facial expressions

body language

five senses - *talk about the way she sounded or how her tears puddled.*

metaphor - *compare her state of sadness to something else*



LIVEWORKSHEETS

BREAK - IT - DOWN

Brenden felt _____ State what he feels. Use an adjective

emotional adjective

facial expressions

body language

five senses - *talk about the way he sounded or how he looked*

metaphor - *compare his state of anger to something else*



LIVEWORKSHEETS

CHARACTER DYNAMICS



Relationships between characters and what they feel for one another is better SHOWN than TOLD.

If every character in a movie walks around with their feelings on a placard, it will be BORING! Humans like seeing other humans emote. It's even scientific. It's called MIRROR NEURONS. This is why SHOWING is important.

Telling sentence: Dave thought Brenda was acting secretive.

Can you identify what tools the author used to SHOW vs TELL?

Showing sentence: Brenda slammed his dresser drawer shut and spun around, her hands hidden behind her back. Her lips jerked into a stiff smile. "Dave! I–I thought you wouldn't be home until six o'clock." Brenda stammered.

BODY LANGUAGE | **ACTION** | **FACIAL EXPRESSIONS**

DIALOGUE | **SPEECH TAGS**

LIVEWORKSHEETS

SCENARIO: Sally did not want her mother to see she failed her math test. Her mother walked in when she was hiding her test paper. Her mother thought Sally was acting secretive

BODY LANGUAGE	ACTION	FACIAL EXPRESSIONS
DIALOGUE	SPEECH TAGS	WALK CYCLES

What would Sally feel?

What body language, facial expressions, speech tags or walk cycles would show that emotion?

Fearful body language

*sweated profusely
*twiddled her thumbs
*fidgeted nervously

Facial expressions

*eyes darted around nervously

*face turned as pale as a sheet

*avoided eye contact

LIVEWORKSHEETS