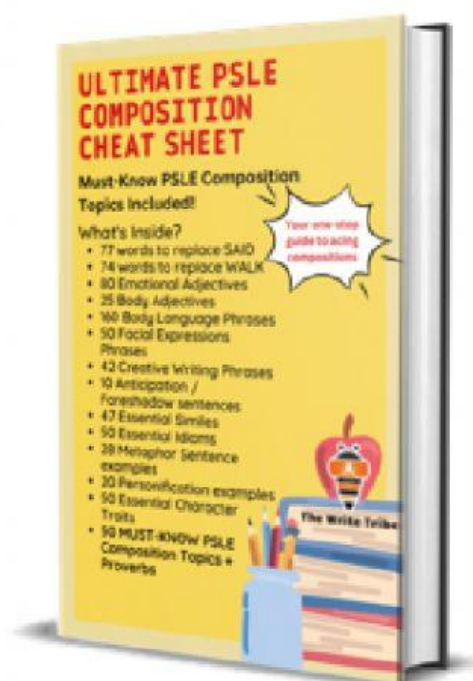


What are PSLE markers looking for?

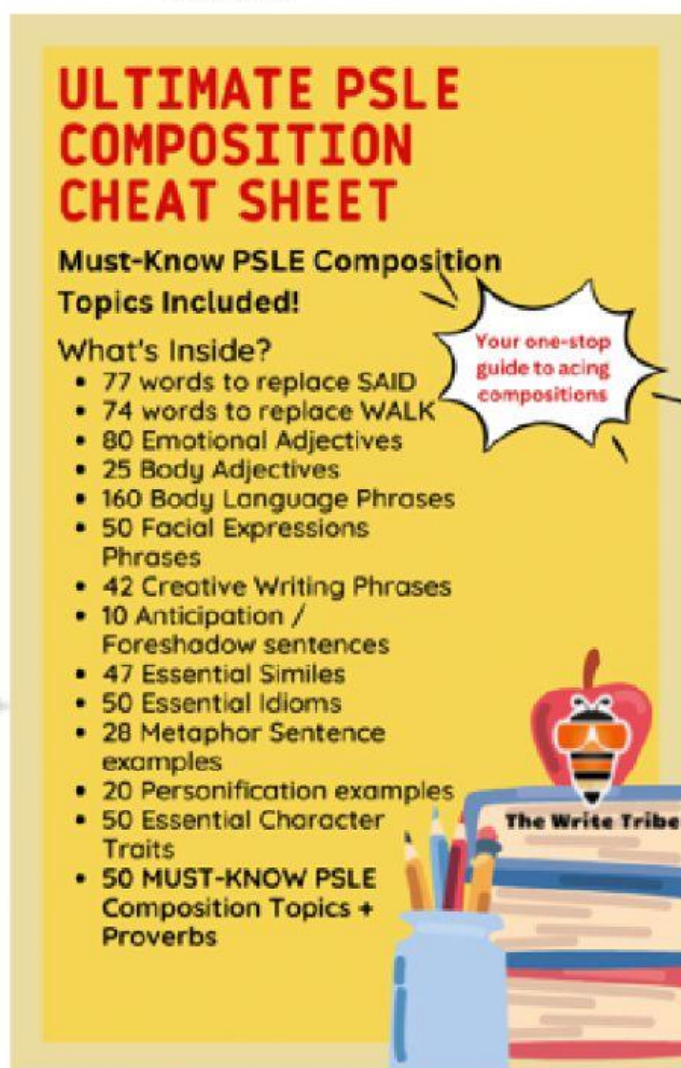
Language	What does it mean?
1. Grammar	- Avoid run-on sentences - Write more interesting sentences. There are few ways to begin a sentence. - Use VISUAL WRITING STYLE instead of telling. SHOW vs TELL. - Most compositions are usually written in PAST TENSE. Dialogue is written in PRESENT TENSE. - Capitals for nouns and names - Use the right PRONOUNS - Singular / Plural - Use connectors!
2. Punctuation	Full Stops (.), Question Marks (?), Exclamation Point (!), Commas (,), Apostrophes ('s), Ellipsis (...) Punctuate Dialogues properly! E.g Dialogues always begin with capitals.
3. Spelling	Commonly misspelled words - Disappointed, Embarrassed, Beginning, Occassion, Panicked, Occurrence, Whether

Language	What does it mean?
4. Vocabulary	- Idioms - Similes - Metaphors - Proverbs - Emotional adjectives - Facial expressions - Body language - Walk cycle verbs - Speech tags - Adverbs - Adjectives - Body adjectives

- You might want to check out our PSLE ULTIMATE CHEAT SHEET. It covers all aspects of language tools you need to know!

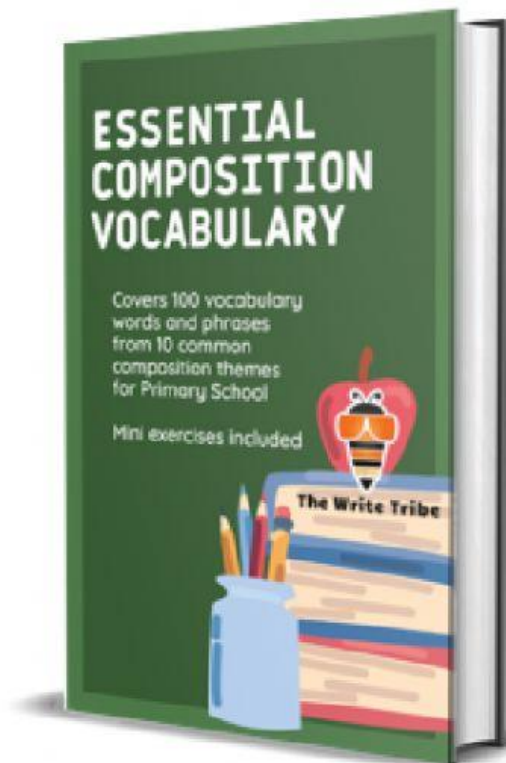


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3 ways to begin a sentence

You can begin with

Present Participles

Walking on the beach, Darla picked up the seashells.

Emotions

Saddened, Darla picked up the seashells.

Adverbs

Quietly, Darla picked up the seashells.

SHOW vs TELL

Create a movie in the mind of your reader!

Telling sentence

Jack was afraid.

Showing sentence

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?



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.