

## 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.

### The Paris Peace Conference

#### 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?

- 10 million people had died in the First World War
- the process of peace-making
- a huge cloud of hatred, grief and loss hanging over the Conference
- the Western Front had been totally destroyed
- you have to appreciate how people felt as they came out of the trauma of World War One
- The part of France where there had been fighting

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

If you found Tasks 1&2 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.

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

- On 18 January 1919, delegates from 32 countries came to Paris to make the treaties which would end the war.

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

**TOP TIP: to do task 4, 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 simple 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, you will learn the tricks to be able to do so.