# Level 6 Student Text

by Matthew Stephens



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Dear Parents/Teachers,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to partner with you in your child's education. I look forward to our journey together.

Up front, I want you to know that your feedback is valuable to me. Development of Essentials in Writing is ongoing and I encourage you to share positive comments and suggestions.

On the next few pages, you will find the suggested approach, curriculum format, and a syllabus for planning.

For those of you who have opted to print worksheets and/or assignment sheets, I recommend printing them at the beginning of the year rather than waiting to print them each day.

As always, I want to keep the lines of communication open and prayerfully ask that you contact me with any questions or concerns. I like to hear your compliments as well.

You may reach me via email at <u>info@essentialsinwriting.com</u> or by phone at **417-256-4191**.

Sincerely,

Matthew Stephens Founder, Essentials in Writing

## SUGGESTED APPROACH

- 1. Look at the worksheet/assignment sheet for today's lesson.
- 2. Watch the video lesson.
- 3. Complete the assignment.
- 4. Look at the next lesson.

## 1. Look at the worksheet/assignment sheet for the day's lesson.

Looking at the assignment will help students be prepared for the content of the lesson. As they watch the video portion of the lesson, they will be listening in terms of what the assignment sheet will require.

## 2. Watch the video lesson.

Present the new concept to the student. Depending on the student, you may want to watch the lesson with the student, or you may allow the student to watch the lesson alone.

## 3. Complete the assignment.

Students will complete the worksheet or assignment sheet. During this time, it's very important for students to "think out loud" as they complete the assignment. If this isn't possible due to disturbance of other students, they may wait until they are finished and then explain the new concept to a third party.

Worksheets/assignment sheets are not considered optional.

## 4. Look at the next lesson.

Again, it's important for students to be aware of what they will be learning.

**How long should I spend on one lesson?** – This depends on the topic and the student. There are many different variables to consider in such a question. Typically, a good rule to follow is: Don't complete the worksheets/assignment sheets unless the student understands the concepts presented in the video lesson. You may need to watch the video more than once. Then, students will complete the worksheet/assignment sheets after and understanding of the new concept is evident.

## **CURRICULUM FORMAT**

Video lessons and worksheets/assignment sheets are titled to correspond with each other by number. Additionally, written work titled "A" will be completed the first day (after watching the video), "B" the second day, "C" the third day, and so on. If a lesson only has "A" written work, move to the next video lesson the following day. Look at the example below for more details.

## Day One

- 1. Look at Lesson 1A worksheet(s).
- 2. Watch Video Lesson 1.
- 3. Complete Lesson 1A written work. (Only if concept taught in video is understood.)
- 4. Student explains what he/she has learned.

## Day Two

- 1. Look at Lesson 2A worksheet(s).
- 2. Watch Video Lesson 2.
- 3. Complete Lesson 2A written work. (Only if concept taught in video is understood.)
- 4. Student explains what he/she has learned.

## **Day Three**

1. Complete Lesson 2B written work.

## **Day Four**

1. Complete Lesson 2C written work.

## **Day Five**

- 1. Look at Lesson 3A worksheet(s).
- 2. Watch Video Lesson 3.
- 3. Complete Lesson 3A written work. (Only if concept taught in video is understood.)
- 4. Student explains what he/she has learned.

## **Day Six**

1. Complete Lesson 3B written work

## **Day Seven**

- 1. Look at Lesson 4A worksheet(s).
- 2. Watch Video Lesson 4.
- 3. Complete Lesson 4A written work. (Only if concept taught in video is understood.)
- 4. Student explains what he/she has learned.
- ...AND SO ON

#### **LEVEL 6 SYLLABUS**

#### This course averages 135-140 class periods. VIDEO – 68 LESSONS WORKBOOK – 213 PAGES

NOTE: Video lessons are indicated by ALL CAPS bold. Worksheets/assignment sheets are listed below each video lesson.

#### LESSON 1: WHAT IS WRITING?

No written assignment.

#### **LESSON 2: REVIEW TYPES OF SENTENCES**

Lesson 2A – Reviewing Complete Sentences Lesson 2B – Reviewing Types of Sentences Lesson 2B – Reviewing Types of Sentences

## LESSON 3: COMPLETE SUBJECTS AND PREDICATES

Lesson 3A - Complete Subjects and Predicates Lesson 3B - Complete Subjects and Predicates

#### LESSON 4: SIMPLE SUBJECT AND PREDICATES

Lesson 4A – Simple Subjects and Predicates Lesson 4B Simple Subjects and Predicates

## LESSON 5: COMPOUND SUBJECTS AND PREDICATES

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Lesson 5C – Compound Subjects and Predicates

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Lesson 6A - Independent and Dependent Clause

Lesson 6B - Independent and Dependent Clause

Lesson 6B – Independent and Dependent Clause

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- Lesson 7A Compound Sentences

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**Compound Sentences** 

Lesson 7B – Combining Ideas Using Compound Sentences

#### **LESSON 8: COMPLEX SENTENCES**

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Lesson 9A – Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases Lesson 9A – Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases Lesson 9B – Using Prepositional Phrases in Writing Lesson 9B – Using Prepositional Phrases in Writing

#### **LESSON 10: INTRODUCING APPOSITIVES**

Lesson 10A – Introducing Appositives Lesson 10B – Introducing Appositives

#### **LESSON 11: FRAGMENT SENTENCE ERROR**

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## Lesson 2A – Reviewing Complete Sentences

Name:\_

Before you complete the work identifying and writing different sentence types, let's do a quick review on complete sentences.

A *simple sentence* contains a subject, a verb, and <u>expresses a</u> <u>complete thought.</u>

## Underline the <u>sentences</u> that are complete.

- 1. Stars shine brightly in the night.
- 2. The moon gives light as well.
- 3. I think tonight there is.
- 4. Going to be a meteor shower.
- 5. I enjoy watching them when they happen.
- 6. One time I got to see Haley's Comet.
- 7. Because the night sky was clear with no clouds.
- 8. Have you ever seen Haley's comet?

9. If you've never seen Haley's Comet, I suggest that you find out when it will travel past the Earth again!

- 10. Aside from seeing the meteor shower.
- 11. It was the most amazing experience I have ever had.
- 12. I hope you're as lucky as me!



## Lesson 2B – Reviewing Types of Sentences

Name:\_

There are four types of sentences.

1. *Declarative* sentences simply make a statement, and so they always end with a **period** (.).

Example: I want a piece of chocolate pie.



2. *Interrogative* sentences ask a question, and so they always end with a **question** (?) mark.

*Example: Did you see my father open the door for my mother?* 

3. *Exclamatory* sentences are meant to show excitement, and so they always end with an **exclamation (!) mark**.

Example: I memorized Proverbs chapter three!



4. *Imperative* sentences express a request command. *Imperative* sentences may end with either a **period** (.) or an **exclamation point** (!).

*Example: Clean off the table and put the dirty dishes, so we can wash them.* 



## Lesson 2B – Reviewing Types of Sentences

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

A. Place the correct punctuation on the line at the end of each sentence. Identify each sentence as either *declarative*, *interrogative*, *imperative* or *exclamatory*.

1. The taxi driver drives very fast in the city\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever ridden in a taxi in New York City \_\_\_\_\_

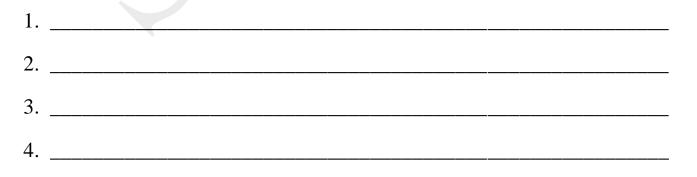
3. Last summer we visited New York, and I was terrified\_\_

4. I wanted to share a few choice phrases with the driver\_\_\_\_\_

5. Stop driving like a maniac\_\_\_\_

## **B.** Read the paragraph below and place the proper punctuation at the end of each sentence. Then label the sentences on the lines below.

(1) Have you ever made a difference in the life of another person\_ (2) People all across the world are waiting for someone to lend a helping hand\_\_\_ This is not only evident in every day life, but in the lives of orphans\_\_ (3) Some orphans only get to eat once a day\_\_\_ (4) Step up to the plate and help an orphan today\_\_\_



## Lesson 6A – Independent and Dependent Clause

## Name:\_

An *independent clause* contains BOTH a subject and a verb, and it can stand alone as a sentence that makes a complete thought. A sentence CAN contain more than one *independent clause*.

Example: Carol wants to eat with me, but she doesn't like pizza.

# Identify each clause. Write "IC" on the line if it's an *independent* clause and "DC" if it's a *dependent clause*.

- 1. when Scotty cried \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. I enjoy eating chocolate cake \_\_\_\_
- 3. unless Terry comes to fix the van \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. although I lost the instructions
- 5. they're going on a picnic \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. mom found the necklace \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. the students sang \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. when the song is over \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. I decided to take a shower \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. the strength of the lion \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. we're planning to eat lunch \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. when I'm finished cleaning \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. The dog is barking \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. Even though Skyler passed the test \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. If Craig kills a turkey \_\_\_\_\_





## Lesson 6B – Independent and Dependent Clause

Name:\_\_

An *independent clause* contains BOTH a subject and a verb, and it can stand alone as a sentence that makes a complete thought. A sentence CAN contain more than one *independent clause*.

*Example:* <u>The man in the trench coat looked suspicious</u>, so <u>we followed him</u> <u>through the alley</u>.

# A. Look at the underlined clauses in the sentences below. Write "IC" on the line beside the sentences if the underlined clauses are *independent clauses* and "DC" if they are *dependent clauses*.

1.	After school today, I went to the barber for	or a haircut.

2. <u>Tristan got the umbrella</u> since it was raining outside.

- 3. Even though we were unsuccessful, we tried to open the jar.
- 4. <u>My father explained what we need</u> to be first place in the race.
- 5. After Jason swam for a while, he played basketball with us.

6. <u>I want to share the cookies with you</u>, but they are all gone.

## **B.** Add *independent clauses* to the dependent clauses below to make the sentences complete.

1.	Since you ate the food I gave you,
2.	Because Jason wrecked his car,
3.	While we waited in the doctor's office,
4.	I took the dog to the vet, but
5.	After we arrived in Chicago.

## Lesson 6B – Independent and Dependent Clause

Name:\_

A *dependent clause* may contain a subject, a verb, or BOTH. However, a *dependent clause* can NOT stand alone as a sentence. A *dependent clause* does not make a complete thought. A sentence CAN contain more than one *dependent clause*.

Example: You passed the test because you studied for five hours.

# A. Look at the underlined clauses in the sentences below. Write "IC" on the line beside the sentences if the underlined clauses are *independent clauses* and "DC" if they are *dependent clauses*.

1. After school today, <u>I went to the barber for a haircut</u>.

2. <u>Since it was raining outside</u>, Tristan got the umbrella.

3. <u>We tried to open the jar</u> even though we were unsuccessful. \_\_\_\_\_

4. My father explained what we need to be first place in the race.

5. After Jason swam for a while, <u>he played basketball with us</u>.

## **B.** Add *dependent clauses* to the independent clauses below to make the sentences complete. The first word of the dependent clause has been added.

1.	Wilma will go see Clara after
2.	The toddler will eat <i>if</i>
3.	The dog is barking <i>because</i>
4.	More than a year has passed <i>since</i>
5.	You can have dessert <i>if</i>



## Lesson 36 – Writing a Personal Narrative

Name:

# A *personal narrative* is a story about something that happened to you. Narratives are fun to write and to read. A good narrative contains the following:

1. The events are in *chronological order*. This means your story has a clear beginning, middle, and end.

2. The narrative focuses on a single event.

3. Narratives are better when they include many *sensory details*. *Sensory details* are details from the story that appeal to the reader's senses. Using sensory details makes your story "come alive" because they help the reader to:

- See what you see
- Hear what you hear
- Taste what you taste
- Feel what you feel
- Smell what you smell



## Lesson 36 – Writing a Personal Narrative

Name:\_

## A *narrative* is a story. Narratives are fun to write and to read. A good narrative contains the following:

## **Read the following narrative.**

Have you ever made a fort in the woods? My friends and I have. We call it Fort Tangle because above the fort, there are many thorns and thistles that make the roof.

One day my friends Taylor and Jared asked me and my brother Britain if we wanted to build a fort in the woods by Jared's house. Britain and I said, "Yes." So, we got permission from my father to go to Jared's house to get started.

The first thing we did was cut down some small limbs from nearby trees. We also gathered sticks that were lying around. Then we leaned the sticks and limbs against a small hill. We cleaned out the leaves and piled them on top of the roof for protection from the sun and the rain.

Making the entry way was the best part. Taylor and I dug a tunnel through the small hill with our shovels. It looks like a hole for a ground hog den...only a little bigger.

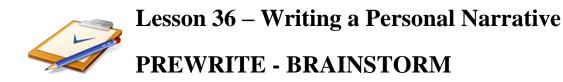
After that, we built an additional room to the side where we could stand up.

"Hey, let's put spy holes in the walls," said Jared as we were working. "That sounds like a great idea!" I said excitedly.

So, we put private spy holes in the walls so we could see who was coming. After we finished the fort, we invited more friends to play. We used the fort for our acorn wars.

In the future, I am going to help Jared build another fort. That way, when our teams have acorn wars, the other team will have a place to hide out, too.





Name:\_

## A *narrative* is a story. Narratives are fun to write and to read.

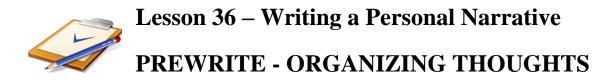
Think about a special day when you had a lot of fun. Maybe you went on vacation, or maybe you went floating or swimming.

Write a narrative about the "special day" you chose.

A. On the lines below, list a few "special days" you've experienced. Then choose one to write about.



**B.** Which "special day" did you choose to write about?



Name:\_\_

## **Graphic Organizer: Option 1**

Use the graphic organizer on this page and the next page to organize your thoughts. Or, you may use <u>Option 2</u> Graphic organizer.

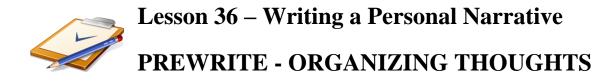
## Title of Event: \_\_\_\_\_

What happened?

When did it happen?

Where did it happen?

Who was there?



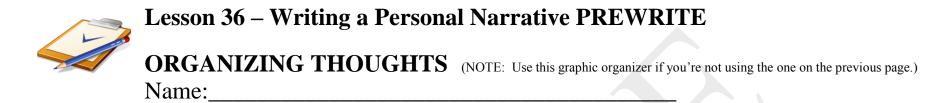
Name:\_\_\_\_\_

## Graphic Organizer: Option 1 *Continued* (Option 2 next page)

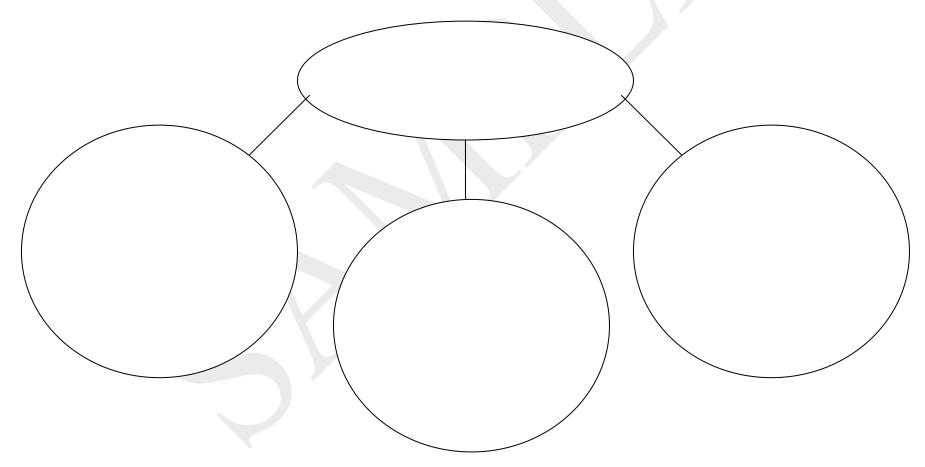
Using the information from the previous page, organize the events in order below.

_			-			-		
В	e	α		n	n		n	α
_	-	3	-			-		3

Middle
End



**Graphic Organizer: Option 2** \*Use the bubble chart below to organize the events of your personal narrative.



## Lesson 37 – Writing a Personal Narrative (Drafting)

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Use the information you wrote in your graphic organizer you chose to compose your rough draft.

*NOTE:* Be sure to write on <u>every other line</u> so that you'll have room to revise later.

1. Begin with a catchy phrase to get your reader's attention. This is called a hook.

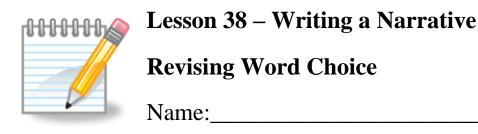
2. Finish drafting your narrative on the lines below. Use transition words such as: *before, after, then, next, first, while, later, soon* 





## Lesson 37 – Writing a Personal Narrative (Drafting)

Continue drafting your narrative on the lines below. If you need more space, you may use an additional sheet of notebook paper.



Now it's time to revise your narrative and look for opportunities to change the words you used to words that are more expressive. This is an important part of revision because you can appeal to the readers' sense of *seeing, tasting, smelling, feeling,* and *hearing.* 

Adding adjectives or adverbs, using stronger verbs, or simply changing words can improve the ability to share with your reader a description of something or what actually happened in your narrative.

Look at the example below:

## **Before:**

I had that same happy-sad feeling again.

## After:

I had that same happy-sad feeling <u>lodged in my throat</u> as memories <u>flooded</u> my mind.

## Check off each step as you complete it.

\_\_\_\_\_ Begin reading the draft out loud touching each word as you read. Look for opportunities to add *adjectives*, *adverbs*, and *other words or phrases* that can give more information.

**NOTE:** Use a thesaurus to find optional words. If you don't have one, you can use an online version for free at <u>www.thesaurus.com</u>.

Example: Instead of walked, use: ambled, meandered, wandered, or shuffled

\_\_\_\_ Make sure all sentences do not begin with the same word.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make sure you have a variety of sentence structures such as compound and complex sentences. (Not all simple sentences...)





## Lesson 39 – Writing a Narrative

## **Revising to Add Purposeful Dialogue**

Name:\_

Now it's time to revise your narrative and look for opportunities to add dialogue. Revising helps your writing "come alive" to the reader.

- Adding dialogue can help reveal the personality of your characters.
- Adding dialogue can help your story come alive.

Look at the example below:

## **Before:**

SCHOOL

A student came in to the room and said he was excited that it was the last day of school.

## After:

*"It's the last day of school!" a student shouted as he entered the room.* 

## Check off each step as you complete it.

1. Turn to the rough draft that you have been revising in the previous lesson. (You'll be writing on that draft as you revise.)

\_\_\_\_\_2. Begin reading the draft out loud touching each word as you read. Look for sentences that say what happened, but could be changed by adding *dialogue*. HINT: Look for the words "said" or "told".



## Lesson 40 – Writing a Narrative (Edit/Publish)

Name:\_\_\_

# Now that you've revised your draft, you're ready to edit for mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

## Check off each step as you complete it.

\_\_\_\_1. Touch each word and read aloud. As you read, look for mistakes in *capitalization*.

\_\_\_\_\_2. Touch each word and read aloud. As you read, look for mistakes in *punctuation*.

\_\_\_\_3. Touch each word and read aloud. As you read, look for mistakes in *spelling*.





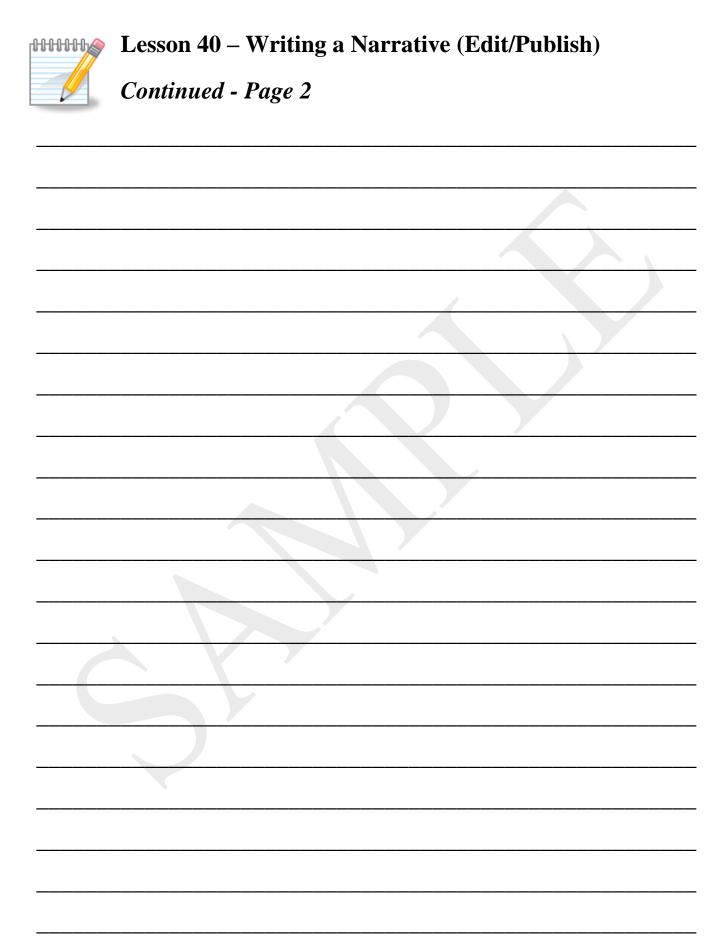
## Lesson 40 – Writing a Narrative (Edit/Publish)

Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Now that you've edited your revised draft, you are ready to publish your final copy. You do not need to double space your final copy.

HINT: Look at the checklist on the next page before you write your final draft to make sure you've completed all steps of a narrative.

Title:\_\_\_\_\_



## Lesson 40 – Writing a Narrative



## Name:\_\_

## Narrative Writing Check List

Introduction
Does your beginning have a hook that "grabs" the reader?
Did you introduce your topic?
Is your topic stated clearly?

ConclusionDoes your ending leave the reader satisfied?

Overall
Do you have a clear beginning, middle, and end?
Are your events in chronological order?
Do you use transition words to transition between events?
Do you give strong, supporting details about the events?
Did you use vivid language to make the story real?
Did you stay on topic?

Mechanics
I have spelled my words correctly.
I have used capitalization correctly.
I have used punctuation correctly.
I indented each time I started a new paragraph.
I used paragraphs correctly.

#### ANSWER KEY

#### (6) congratulated, gave

#### **ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLE BELOW**

- 9. The farmer *picked the corn and put them in the bucket*. 10. The lion tamer put his hand on the lion and gave a command.
- 11. Tuesday, I went to the lake and swam until dark.
- 12. At the library, I borrowed a book and read on the sofa.
- 13. The baseball player hit the ball and ran to first base.

#### Lesson 5C - Compound Subjects and Predicates **ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLE BELOW**

- 1. My brother and friend studied together.
- 2. The frog likes to jump and swim.
- 3. The mouse was asleep and woke up.
- 4. The parent pulled and broke the door.

#### Lesson 6A - Independent and Dependent Clause

- 1. DC
- 2. IC
- 3. DC
- 4. DC 5. IC
- 6. IC
- 7. IC
- 8. DC
- 9. IC
- 10. DC
- 11. IC
- 12. DC 13. IC
- 14. DC
- 15. DC

#### Lesson 6B - Independent and Dependent Clause

- 1. DC
- 2. IC
- 3. DC 4. IC
- 5. DC
- 6. IC

#### **ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLE BELOW**

- 1. Since you ate the food I gave you, you can have dessert.
- 2. Because Jason wrecked his car, he won't be going to the concert.
- 3. While we waited in the doctor's office, *I read a book to Emily*.
- 4. I took the dog to the vet, but he is not getting better.
- 5. After we arrived in Chicago, we ate at a restaurant downtown.

#### Lesson 6B - Independent and Dependent Clause

- 1. IC
- 2. DC
- 3. IC
- 4. DC
- 5. IC

#### **ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLE BELOW**

- 1. Wilma will go see Clara after she makes Carl lunch.
- 2. The toddler will eat if you feed her peaches.
- 3. The dog is barking because someone is walking in the yard.
- 4. More than a year has passed since Isaiah got his tonsils
- extracted.
- 5. You can have dessert if you eat everything on your plate.

#### Lesson 7A - Simple and Compound Sentences

- 1. The bear saw the conservationists, but she didn't know their plan.
- 2. Later she woke up, and she looked all around her.
- 3. Next to her was another bear, and it seemed to be sleeping.
- 4. She felt something in her ear, but she didn't know what it was.
- 5. She didn't like how it felt, but she soon calmed down.

6. The red hummingbird landed on the feeder, and *it started to get a* 

7. Suddenly, another hummingbird appeared, so the red one got angry.

8. The two hummingbirds began to fight, but *there was nothing I could* do.

9. Soon the both flew away, and they landed on a tree branch.

#### Lesson 7A Simple and Compound Sentences

2. X 3. \_\_\_\_4. X 5. 1. 6.

#### ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLE BELOW

1. Ineed to go to the store, so I can buy some new shoes.

2. The raccoon rummaged around the garbage cans, but he didn't knock <u>it over.</u>

#### Lesson 7B - Combining Simple Sentences to Form Compound Sentences

#### ANSWERS MAY VARY – EXAMPLE BELOW

- 1. I made you a sandwich, so you can eat now.
- 2. Tate has extremely curly hair, so he keeps it cut short.

3. Monkeys often show affection to one another, and they stay clean by grooming one another.

4. You can have soup, or you can have a hamburger.

5. I want to spend the night with Grandma, but I don't want to miss seeing Rick.

6. I will watch your children, so you and your husband can go on a date.

#### Lesson 7B - Combining Ideas Using Compound Sentences

It is my birthday, but I have to work. I want to stay home and relax with my friends. When I get home, we'll play some games. Would you like to play soccer, or would you like to play tennis? Afterward, we'll eat dinner. I want spaghetti for dinner, and I want ice cream for dessert. We will enjoy each other's company on my birthday, and we will have a wonderful time.

#### Lesson 8A - Complex Sentences

- 1. I will get the grapes if you will carry the oranges.
- 2. Taylor will move on to the next lesson since he passed the test.
- 3. I sprain my ankle often even though I'm very careful.
- 4. I felt tired after eating lunch at Carl's.
- 5. I gave my father a gift because he's the best.

#### Lesson 8A - Complex Sentences

- 1. If you will carry the oranges, I will get the grapes.
- 2. Since Taylor passed the test, he will move to the next lesson.
- 3. Even though I'm very careful, I sprain my ankle often.
- 4. After eating lunch at Carl's, I felt tired.
- 5. Because he's the best, I gave my father a gift.

#### Lesson 8B - Complex Sentences

#### ANSWERS MAY VARY - EXAMPLE BELOW

- 1. Some doctors work in pediatric care because that's what they love.
- 2. Justin and Derrick will organize the closet, but it will not be clean.

3. Even though Kent wasn't supposed to be in the sun, he went to the lake.

4. When I got to the top step, I fell off the ladder.

5. Because Mom made ooey gooey chocolate brownies, *I'm going to* give her a thousand hugs.

6. If I play the saxophone for you, *I want you to look the other way*.

12. Although my I can't stay overnight, I still want to come to your

- 7. When I go floating, I always have tons of fun.
- 8. When the field trip ended, everyone was tired.

Lesson 8B - Complex Sentences

house.

1. C

3. C

4. C 5. C

2.

6. 7.

9. My favorite dessert is apple pie because it has lots of crust. 10. I had to take the bus home after I locked my keys in the car. 11. Even though Rachel is crying, she doesn't seem too upset.