

2021 PSLE FOUNDATION ENGLISH SUBJECT-BASED STRATEGIES

Paper 1

Writing Strategy: Show, Don't Tell.

Paper 1 is often seen as a challenging component of the Foundation English paper. One strategy that can be used to make your writing more appealing is using "Show, Don't Tell".

Let's take the following introduction as an example:

Ring! Lessons were over for the day. Sammy went for my CCA excitedly. His coach said he has improved. He felt very happy. After CCA ended, Sammy packed his bag and went home. He was very tired. He was also very hungry.

Let's focus on the underlined words. The adjectives used here are just stating the feeling and emotions, without actually giving a vivid picture of what's going on.

Let's look at the edited introduction below instead:

Ring! Lessons were over for the day! Sammy **could barely contain my excitement**. His coach said he has improved. Sammy was **overjoyed** and **beaming from ear to ear**. After CCA ended, he **hurriedly gathered his belongings and stuffed them into his bag**. Sammy **trudged home wearily**. He was **famished** after the **exhausting** CCA session.

The edited introduction did not change the direction of the story but by using better descriptive phrases and words, the writer managed to do the following:

- making the reader **feel** as if they are in the story
- describing **the senses**
- help the readers believe the actual experience of the characters

You can start by rephrasing overused words such as "happy" and "sad" first.

Tell	Show
I felt very happy on the way home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I skipped cheerfully all the way home.• I was humming cheerful songs while hurrying home• Walking home I felt as if my heart would burst with joy.

Tell	Show
I was sad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My heart felt heavy. • I had a lump in my throat, holding back my tears. • I tried really hard not to let the tears fall from my eyelids.

You can make your own list with other commonly used feelings in a writing such as nervousness and anger. Try it!

Paper 2

Question 3

Demonstrative Pronouns

This, That, These and Those are demonstrative pronouns that refer to singular or plural objects that are nearer to or further from the speaker.

Look for clues in the sentences that help to show whether it is a singular or plural object and where the object is located with respect to the speaker.

	Near the speaker	Away from the speaker
Singular	<p>This</p> <p>e.g. This book <u>here</u> is mine.</p> <p>‘Book’ is singular. ‘Here’ indicates it is near the speaker.</p>	<p>That</p> <p>E.g. That book <u>over there</u> on that shelf is mine.</p> <p>‘Book’ is singular. ‘There’ indicates it is away from the speaker.</p>
Plural	<p>These</p> <p>e.g. These books <u>here</u> are mine.</p> <p>‘Books’ is a plural object. ‘Here’ indicates it is near the speaker.</p>	<p>Those</p> <p>e.g. Those books <u>over there</u> on that shelf are mine.</p> <p>‘Books’ is a plural object. ‘There’ indicates it is away from the speaker.</p>

(Question) “Can someone help to bring **those** paintbrushes from the back of the class (*away from the speaker*) to the teacher’s table here?” instructed Mr Tham.

Question 8

Past Continuous and Simple Past

When an event was taking place in the past when it is interrupted by another event, the two events can be described using the past continuous and simple past verbs respectively.

e.g.

(A) Aliyah was sleeping when Jane arrived.

Event that was taking place: Aliyah **was sleeping**. → past continuous

Event that interrupted: Jane **arrived**. → simple past

(B) Jacob left while Salim was giving his speech.

Event that was taking place: Salim **was giving** his speech. → past continuous

Event that interrupted: Jacob **left**. → simple past

Hence,

(Question) Matty **was reading** out the announcements when you **walked** in.

Event that was taking place

Event that interrupted.

(Past continuous)

(Simple past)

Question 45

Gerunds

After a preposition, a verb must be changed to a noun form or a gerund by adding 'ing'.

E.g.

(A) Lisa is proud. She speaks many languages.

→ Lisa is proud **of speaking** many languages.

'Of' is a preposition so 'speak' must be changed to 'speaking'

(B) Amin is sorry. He had hurt Lea's feelings.

→ Amin is sorry **for hurting** Lea's feelings.

'For' is a preposition so 'had hurt' must be changed to 'hurting'

(Question) The boys walk past me. The boys did not say anything.

'Without' is the given preposition, so 'say' must be changed to 'saying'.

→The boys walk past me **without saying** anything.