



Good writers elaborate on ideas and details to make their writing clearer and more interesting.

- A. Read the two versions of this personal narrative. Underline the details in the revision that show how the writer elaborated on his ideas.

First Draft

Last summer, I spent time with some relatives. They live in an apartment in the town where my uncle goes to college. Before he went to college, my uncle had a good job, but he decided that he wanted to do something else. He was nervous about going to college, but now he likes what he is learning. He told Aunt Joan and me a lot of stories. I learned interesting stuff from him last summer, and now I want to learn more.

Revision

Last summer, I spent a week with my Uncle Richard and Aunt Joan in their cozy, little apartment. They live just down the street from Hart College, where Uncle Richard goes to school. Until two years ago, my uncle was a construction worker. It was a good, steady job. But then he decided that he wanted to be a history teacher and inspire curious, young students. At first, he was nervous about going to college, but soon he was enjoying it too much to be nervous.

Uncle Richard told my aunt and me stories about what he was studying, such as ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, and the Egyptian pharaohs. Pretty soon, she and I both wanted to read more about these fascinating, fun topics. I learned a lot from Uncle Richard. What I really learned, though, was that the more you learn, the more you want to find out!

- B. Circle the comma between the adjectives in each sentence.
1. I want to read more about the heroic, short-lived Alexander the Great.
 2. Aunt Joan wants to learn about the wise, scholarly Greek philosophers.
 3. My uncle's best stories were about the ruthless, powerful pharaohs.



As you write, think about the questions your reader might have, and how you can answer those questions by elaborating more.

- A. Read Jamie's letter. Then write three questions you might ask Jamie to help her elaborate on her ideas so she gives more information.

Hi!

I have been busy since I last wrote to you. In school, I have been especially busy. After school, I like to do fun, different things. I love weekends. My friends are great. One of my friends is really fun. What have you been doing?

Your friend,
Jamie

Questions: _____

- B. Write back to Jamie, telling her what you've been doing lately. Think about your questions from above to help you elaborate on your own ideas.

Hi Jamie,

I've been busy since I last wrote to you. _____

- C. Write a comma between the adjectives in each sentence.

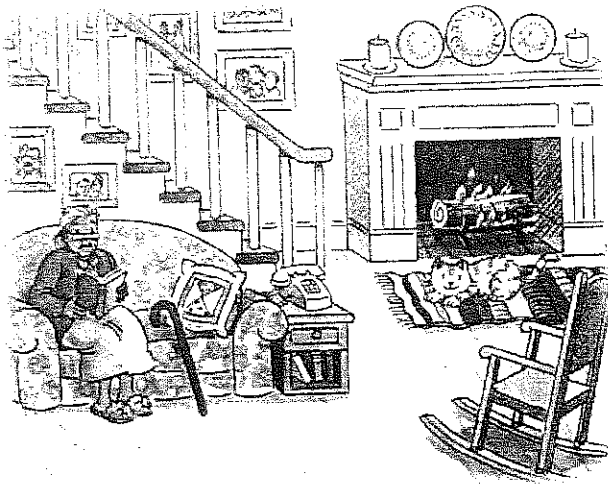
1. We're making realistic life-sized models of skeletons in science.
2. The hard round skull is the most difficult part to make!



Ideas

Develop your writing by elaborating on ideas and details.

Look at the picture and read the description of the room. Then revise the description by adding details about the room and elaborating on what is happening in it. Be sure to use commas between adjectives.



A person is reading in her living room. She is sitting on a couch. The walls of the room have photographs on them. Against one wall is a fireplace with a cat lying in front of it. There are some prized possessions displayed on the mantelpiece. There is a rocking chair facing the couch, but it is empty.

Name: _____



Make your writing richer by elaborating on ideas and details.

What is your favorite possession? Plan a paragraph to describe what makes it special. Answer the questions to help you elaborate and add details to your description.

What is your favorite possession? _____

What size and shape is the object? _____

What is it made of? _____

What color is the object? _____

Where do you keep it? _____

When or where did you get it? _____

Why do you like the object? Why is it important to you?

