LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

SENTENCE CONSTRUCTION

Sentence structures.

1. Simple sentence - one main clause, subject, and predicate.
   e.g. The empire was at its strongest.

2. Compound sentence - two or more main clauses linked with punctuation and/or conjunctions.
   e.g. The empire was at its strongest, and colonies thrived to the benefit of the mother country.

3. Complex sentence - one main clause, one or more dependent clause (cannot stand-alone and make sense).
   e.g. Because his paintings were ignored at home, he moved to Europe for two decades.

4. Compound, complete sentence - two or more main clauses and one dependent clause.
   e.g. When ship workers went on strike, several of their leaders were imprisoned; however, domestic and international pressure forced the government to relent, although the unions remain weak by Western standards.

Common Sentence Errors
1. Run-on sentences –
   e.g. Buddha was uninterested in physical laws, he strove to withdraw from the worked, the spiritual realm was more real to him.

2. Sentence fragments -
   e.g. The population increased dramatically. Because of the growth of agriculture. In time, the cities became more crowded. Though many people remained on the farms.

3. Subject-verb agreement - occurs when the verb does not agree in number (singular or plural) with the subject of a sentence. This may occur because the pronoun does not agree with its antecedent.
   e.g. His arguments, which do not follow from any clearly stated thesis and rarely lead to a logical conclusion, is unconvincing.
4. Pronouns and antecedents - a pronoun is a word used instead of a noun.
   e.g. The crowd was ashamed of their behaviour (its).

5. Tense inconsistency
   e.g. Menzies regards the judgement of whether life is worth living as the fundamental question of philosophy. He considered this question the starting point for the meaning of life.

6. Subject - Verb separation
   e.g. Menzies, who appealed to the electorate’s distrust of communism, post-war patriotism and fears of too much centralisation of power, led the Liberals to victory in the 1949 election.

7. Verb separation
   e.g. The general announced with great reluctance and a sense of futility the orders.

8. Compound verb separation
   e.g. Loman was, however much his sons failed to recognise it, trying to help them.

9. Active/Passive - try to avoid too much passive. Active is considered preferable because it is more emphatic.
   e.g. Lady Macbeth nurtures her husband’s ambitions.
   e.g. Her husband’s ambitions are nurtured by Lady Macbeth.

References:
The following references were consulted and some examples were taken from:
Cheshire


