

Sentence Fluency

Key Question: Does the author control sentences so the piece flows smoothly when read aloud?

Not Proficient

Proficient

	1-Beginning	2-Emerging	3-Developing	4-Capable	5-Experienced	6-Exceptional
	Sentences are incorrectly structured; reader has to reread several times, and even then piece is difficult to read aloud without pausing or substituting phrases	Sentences vary little, even simple sentence structures cause reader to stop and decide what is being said and how; challenging to read aloud; sentences are not technically correct	Sentences are technically correct but not varied, creating sing-song patterns or lulling reader to sleep; sounds mechanical when read aloud	Sentences are varied and flow smoothly, tending to be pleasant or businesslike, though may still be mechanical in places; easy to read aloud	Some sentences are rhythmic and flowing, using a variety of correctly structured sentence types; flows well when read aloud	Sentences have flow, rhythm, and cadence and are well built, with strong, varied structures that invites expressive oral reading
A	Sentence structure is choppy, incomplete, run-on, rambling, or awkward	Sentence structure often doesn't work, but some phrasing requires the reader to reread for comprehension	Sentence structure is technically correct, yet sentences do not flow smoothly	Sentence structure is correct and smooth, but mechanical in places	Sentence structure flows well and moves reader fluidly through piece	Sentence structure is strong, underscoring and enhancing meaning while engaging and moving reader from beginning to end in fluid fashion
B	No sentence sense is evident; determining where sentences begin and end is nearly impossible	There is little evidence of sentence sense and/or patterns are overly simplistic for purpose; to make sentences flow correctly, most have to be reconstructed	Sentence sense is inconsistent; reader can read past problems and see where sentences begin and end; sentences typically vary little	Sentence sense is evident; sentences are constructed with some variety and flow easily together; a variety of punctuation adds to the rhythm	Sentence sense is strong, with frequent rhythmic patterns; construction and variety enhance flow; dialogue or fragments are used effectively	Sentence sense is strong, with rhythm and cadence, and contributes to meaning; dialogue, if present, sounds natural; fragments, if used, add style; sentences are nicely balanced in type, beginnings, connectives, and rhythm
C	Incomplete sentences make it hard to judge quality of beginnings or identify type of sentence	Most sentences begin in same way and are simple (i.e., subject-verb-object) and monotonous	Sentence beginnings sometimes vary, but in a predictable way; almost all sentences are limited to simple and compound	Sentence beginnings vary yet are routine or generic; types include simple, compound, and a few complex	Sentence beginnings are varied and frequently unique; a variety of sentence types (i.e., simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex) are used to create balance	Varied sentence beginnings add interest and energy; four sentence types (simple, complex, compound, compound-complex) seem purposely chosen to enhance meaning and flow
D	Weak or no transitions create a jumble of language that is too choppy and/or full of run-on sentences; lack of connected sentences leave piece sounding disordered	Basic transitions (e.g., and, so, but, then, because) do little to lead the reader through the piece, and if used, seem randomly applied	A few simple transition words or phrases lead reader from sentence to sentence, though coherence remains limited	Transition words and phrases (e.g., either, in sum, because) hold piece together	Thoughtful and varied transitions move reader easily through piece	Creative and appropriate transitions show how each sentence relates to previous one and ties piece together
E	Rhythm is choppy, not fluid; piece cannot be read aloud without author's help, even with practice	Rhythm is random and choppy or inappropriately simplistic; writing does not invite expressive oral reading	Rhythm is present in places; reader can read aloud after a few readings; sounds flat	Rhythm is mostly present; most sentences invite oral reading, but some remain stiff or choppy	Rhythm works throughout; reader can read aloud easily	Rhythm flows; writing has cadence; first reading aloud is expressive and pleasurable