Signs by the Shore

Study how sentence choices guide different readers.

7.P.AC.2.c "Make decisions about sentence structure and syntax in order to accommodate and influence the audience and achieve a specific purpose. (I/C)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every sentence that tells a reader to take an action, circle the passage's question, and put a star beside the longest sentence in each paragraph. Use your marks to notice how the writer shapes sentences for visitors.

Protecting a Beach Nest

1. At sunrise, volunteers rope off a small section of Harbor Beach. Beneath the sand, loggerhead turtle eggs rest in a nest that may hatch in late summer. Beach visitors can help without joining a team. Keep chairs, coolers, and games outside the marked area. Walk around the ropes, even when the tide narrows the shore. One careless step can crush eggs that will not be visible from above. The ropes give hatchlings and their nest a safer path toward the water.

2. A posted sign stands near the marked nesting zone. It reads, "Please turn off flashlights after dark." "Do not dig near the stakes." People carrying gear, talking with friends, or hurrying toward the water pass the sign each day. Farther down, one longer sentence describes bright lights drawing hatchlings away from the moonlit horizon and toward roads or buildings. The sign ends with a question near its bottom edge. "Will the hatchlings find the sea tonight before morning?"

3. Later, volunteers share an online post for families planning a beach day. It begins, "Pack your umbrella, snacks, and a reusable bag." Then it adds, "If you notice a turtle track, leave it exactly as you found it and tell a lifeguard." The beach center places the post beside a map of public entrances and a photo of a roped nest. Comments beneath it list picnic plans, stroller routes, and questions about turtle tracks. Its final line is brief: "Small choices protect a whole shore."

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In paragraph 1, which two sentences use commands rather than statements? How do these commands suit people who are visiting the beach?

2. The sign in paragraph 2 places a longer sentence after two short commands. What information does the longer sentence add, and why might that information influence a visitor's choices?

3. What response might the question at the end of the sign prompt in a reader? Use words from the question to support your answer.

4. Compare the sign in paragraph 2 with the online post in paragraph 3. How do their sentence structures fit their different audiences and purposes?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence message for beach visitors arriving after sunset. Write a command of 5 to 8 words, then a compound sentence that gives a reason, and end with a question that makes readers think about hatchlings.

ANSWER KEY

Signs by the Shore

GRADE 7 · 7.P.AC.2.c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every sentence that tells a reader to take an action, circle the passage's question, and put a star beside the longest sentence in each paragraph. Use your marks to notice how the writer shapes sentences for visitors. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, which two sentences use commands rather than statements? How do these commands suit people who are visiting the beach?	**"Keep chairs, coolers, and games outside the marked area" and "Walk around the ropes, even when the tide narrows the shore." The commands give beach visitors clear actions to follow.**
2	The sign in paragraph 2 places a longer sentence after two short commands. What information does the longer sentence add, and why might that information influence a visitor's choices?	**It tells that bright lights can draw hatchlings away from the moonlit horizon and toward roads or buildings. This consequence can give visitors a reason to turn off flashlights.**
3	What response might the question at the end of the sign prompt in a reader? Use words from the question to support your answer.	**It may prompt readers to worry about whether hatchlings will "find the sea" before morning and consider how their actions could affect them.**
4	Compare the sign in paragraph 2 with the online post in paragraph 3. How do their sentence structures fit their different audiences and purposes?	**The sign uses short commands and a question for people near the nesting zone who need to act quickly. The online post begins with a friendly list and uses an if sentence to guide families as they plan a beach day.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Turn off all flashlights now. Hatchlings follow the brightest horizon, so artificial light can lead them toward roads. Will they reach the sea safely?

Accept equivalent explanations that connect sentence length, commands, questions, or conditional wording to a particular audience and purpose. For the writing task, check that the response has exactly three sentences and follows the required structures.