

Falcon Flight Patterns

Study how a model text expands ideas with varied sentences.

7.W.2.A.vi "Generate and organize ideas using the writing process (planning, drafting, revising, editing) to develop multi-paragraph texts. This includes: Expanding and embedding ideas to create sentence variety."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three sentences that begin in different ways, circle one extra detail placed inside commas, and number one short sentence and one longer sentence. These choices show how the writer expands ideas and creates sentence variety.

Peregrines Above the City

- ① On a spring morning, a peregrine falcon sweeps past the glass towers of a city. The bird, once rare in many North American cities because of DDT, now nests on ledges and bridges. From a high perch, it watches pigeons move below. Then it dives. During a hunting stoop, the falcon folds its wings and can reach speeds over 200 miles per hour, making it one of the fastest animals on Earth. City wildlife teams sometimes place nest boxes on tall buildings, giving the falcons safer places to raise chicks.
- ② Before a pair settles in, biologists inspect a nest site. They look for a sheltered ledge, clear flight paths, and enough distance from busy windows. A camera may be installed nearby, but the adults are not handled during nesting. In the nest box, which is lined with gravel instead of soft twigs, the female usually lays two to five eggs. Both parents guard the area. After about a month, pale chicks break from their shells and demand food with calls. The parents bring prey to the nest, tearing it into pieces the chicks can swallow.
- ③ Young falcons remain in the nest for weeks, growing feathers that replace their down. When they stand on the ledge, they flap and hop toward the edge. A flight may be awkward. Still, the bird practices each day, following its parents across the skyline. By late summer, it must catch its own prey. The change from watched chick to skilled hunter takes time, yet each flight builds strength and control. People who watch a nest camera can see this progress, from the first cracked egg to the moment a juvenile disappears over the rooftops.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 In paragraph 1, copy the very short sentence. How does its length affect the moment?

2 What information is placed between commas in the second sentence of paragraph 1? How does that information expand the idea about the falcon?

3 In paragraph 2, copy the words between commas that explain how the nest box is prepared. Why is this specific detail useful?

4 How do the sentence openings "When they stand on the ledge" and "By late summer" in paragraph 3 help organize the young falcon's development?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose an animal you know about. Plan three points, then draft a three-paragraph, 120-150-word explanation about how it survives or grows. Revise to include one short sentence, two sentences that begin in different ways, and one extra detail placed inside commas, then edit capitalization and punctuation.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three sentences that begin in different ways, circle one extra detail placed inside commas, and number one short sentence and one longer sentence. These choices show how the writer expands ideas and creates sentence variety. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	In paragraph 1, copy the very short sentence. How does its length affect the moment?	"Then it dives." Its short length makes the dive feel sudden and quick.
2	What information is placed between commas in the second sentence of paragraph 1? How does that information expand the idea about the falcon?	"once rare in many North American cities because of DDT." It adds the falcon's history and shows that its city nesting is a recovery story.
3	In paragraph 2, copy the words between commas that explain how the nest box is prepared. Why is this specific detail useful?	"which is lined with gravel instead of soft twigs." It tells exactly what material is used and contrasts it with a material that is not used.
4	How do the sentence openings "When they stand on the ledge" and "By late summer" in paragraph 3 help organize the young falcon's development?	They show time passing, from the young falcon's first movements on the ledge to its later ability to catch prey independently.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Plan: habitat and body parts, building a home, winter survival. Beavers live near ponds, streams, and slow rivers. Their broad tails help them steer in water and warn nearby beavers by slapping the surface. At night, they search for bark, leaves, and water plants. A beaver can stay underwater for about fifteen minutes. Using its strong front teeth, a beaver cuts branches and carries them to the water. It may build a dam, a wall of sticks and mud, where flowing water is slowed. The deeper pond protects the animal from some predators. It also gives the beaver a place to store food. Winter is hard. Before ice covers the pond, the beaver adds branches to its food pile underwater. Inside its lodge, which has an underwater entrance, it rests above the waterline. When spring arrives, the beaver leaves its shelter and begins repairing damage from storms.

Accept answers that accurately quote or identify the stated passage details and explain how added details, varied openings, or sentence length improve clarity or flow. For the writing task, accept any accurate three-paragraph explanation that meets the length, revision, and editing requirements.