

Given Passage to Learn to Write From

PoB-A	Paragraph 1	<p>The circus elephants were delighted when a new baby was born. They all were amazed by his huge ears. They thought he would grow to be gigantic. The other baby animals grew, but only Jumbo's ears expanded. This made Jumbo and his mother unhappy.</p>
PoB-B	Paragraph 2	<p>Jumbo was selected to perform in the show. This cheered up Jumbo and his mother. Jumbo's role was to stand on top of five balancing elephants and wave a flag. Everything went smoothly until Jumbo tripped over his ears. He fell to the ground and rolled over. He knocked over all the elephants. The tent began falling. The people and animals scrambled to get outside.</p>
PoB-C	Paragraph 3	<p>The circus master was furious. Jumbo was taken away from his mother. He was re-named Dumbo and forced to perform the "fireman trick." He was forced to fall off a platform. When he landed in a pool of mud, the crowd would laugh.</p>

Lesson A. Study Skills: Outline First Paragraph With Writing Boxes

When you write from a given source (either one that you find or one that your Character Ink book provides for you), you want to write the material in your own words.

You do not want to use the words that the original author wrote because that is plagiarism—stealing someone else’s words and calling them your words.

So anytime you get information from a source, whether it is a book, online source, magazine, or other, it is important to use the information in such a way that you write in your own words—not in the author’s words.

How can you write from a source but still make it your own?

There are two important tips to remember in using sources in writing:

(1) Always outline before you write!

- a. The outline will take you one step away from the source when you write your own report or essay.
- b. Each step that you take away from the source when you write helps you write more originally.

(2) Choose synonyms (words that mean the same) for the words in the original source—rather than using the author’s exact words.

We will work on those two steps extensively in this lesson. We will use a simple, short passage of material about *Dumbo* in which to practice these skills.

And you will be creating outlines and writing like a pro by the end of the first week!

Read the entire *Dumbo* passage aloud with your teacher or to yourself to get an idea of what you will be writing about this week.

<> **A-1a.** In the first sentence of the first paragraph that is provided by itself below, highlight the following words:

- 1. elephant 2. delighted
- 3. baby 4. born

The circus elephants were delighted when a new baby was born.

These four words are the most important words in the sentence.

They are also words you will want to change when you write the sentence in your own words. This is because they are so important to the sentence, and the author chose those himself.

<> **A-1b.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you just highlighted in the sentence. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

<u>elephants</u>	<u>delighted</u>	<u>baby</u>	<u>born</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

<> **A-1c.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-1d.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence One

SAMPLE

<> **A-2a.** Now repeat that process by highlighting the four most important nouns, pronouns, and verbs in the next sentence from the passage (provided below).

They all were amazed by his huge ears.

<> **A-2b.** Write those words on the top line in the following columns and underline them with a highlighter.

<> **A-2c.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you've listed and underlined. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

<> **A-2d.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-2e.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence Two

SAMPLE

<> **A-3a.** Now repeat that process by highlighting the four most important nouns, pronouns, and verbs in the next sentence from the passage (provided below).

They thought he would grow to be gigantic.

<> **A-3b.** Write those words on the top line in the following columns.

<> **A-3c.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you've listed and underlined. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

<> **A-3d.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-3e.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence Three

SAMPLE

<> **A-4a.** Now repeat that process by highlighting the four most important words in the fourth sentence of the passage (provided below).

The other baby animals grew, but only Jumbo's ears expanded.

<> **A-4b.** Write those words on the top line in the following columns.

<> **A-4c.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you've listed and underlined. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

<> **A-4d.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-4e.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence Four

SAMPLE

<> **A-5a.** Now repeat that process by highlighting the four most important words in the fifth sentence from the passage (provided below).

This made Jumbo and his mother unhappy.

<> **A-5b.** Write those words on the top line in the following columns.

<> **A-5c.** Choose at least three to five synonyms or substitute words for the words you've listed and underlined. Write the synonyms on the lines below in the columns.

<> **A-5d.** Once you have at least three to five synonyms, choose the one you think sounds like the best substitute for each of the original words and highlight each one you choose.

<> **A-5e.** Write a new sentence from the given one with your new words (highlighted above).

Paragraph 1: Sentence Five

SAMPLE

↔ **A-6.** Write all of your final sentences from each page of Lesson A on the lines provided as one complete paragraph.

SAMPLE

Sample of Paragraph One

The circus pachyderms were thrilled when a new young one was birthed. The animals, as a whole, were astonished by his huge hearing appendages. The elephants concluded that Jumbo would mature to be gigantic. The other young mammals filled out, but only Jumbo's ears broadened. This caused the youngster and his parent to be miserable.

SAMPLE

Writing Boxes Sample First Paragraph

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PoB-A	PARAGRAPH 1	African elephants weigh between 8,500 and 16,500 pounds. They also reach up to thirteen feet in height. Additionally, they have large ears. This keeps them cool in the hot African sun. They have heads with only one bump on top. As far as tusks, both males and females have them.
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PoB-B	PARAGRAPH 2	Asian elephants weigh between 6,500 and 13,000 pounds. They only reach eleven and a half feet. They also have smaller ears. The sun above their home is less hot. Additionally, they have heads with two bumps on top. Finally, only males have tusks.
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Lesson A. Passage and Reading:

- ◁ A-1. Read the passage aloud with your teacher.
- ◁ A-2. In the passage, highlight the words *African* and *Asian* one time each.

This week you will be writing one or two paragraphs about African and/or Asian elephant(s).

Lesson B. Pre-Writing: Choose Notes and Number Them:

Follow the steps given below to prepare to write a paragraph (or two) similar to the passage using the notes provided:

1. Choose Your Paragraph

- a. Basic students: Circle the box of notes that you are going to write from, based on which type of elephant you want to write about. Place an X on the other box.
- b. Extension students: You will write about both types of elephants.

2. Number the notes in each of the boxes that you are using:

- a. Number the notes in the order that you would like to put them in your paragraph.
- b. Extension students repeat this for the second box.

3. Optional: Add notes if desired:

Add notes to either or both boxes from information that you find in a book or online source.

Asian Elephants	African Elephants
Long and tapered lower lip Less wrinkled skin Less ribs More tightly compressed ridges on teeth Less trunk rings Softer trunk One trunk 'finger' More toenails More grass in diet	Short and round lower lip More wrinkled skin More ribs Looser ridges on teeth More trunk rings Harder trunk Two trunk 'fingers' Fewer toenails More leaves in diet
_____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____

Student Sample of Two Elephant Types

Did you know how big African elephants are? They weigh in at 8,500 pounds to 16,500 pounds! As for height, they are often as tall as thirteen feet. As many people assume, these mammals have bulky ears. These "Dumbo-like" ears keep them from overheating in the blistering heat of Africa. These pachyderms have a single lump right on their heads. All full-grown African elephants get to sport those "ivory horns"--not just the males.

Elephants from Asia are a little smaller than their African friends. They weigh anywhere from 6,500 to 13,000 pounds. They are also shorter as they only get to be about 11 1/2 feet tall. While all pachyderms have fairly big ears, the Asian elephants have smaller ones than the African elephants. These Asian "packys" do not have to deal with extreme heat in their habitat. And...they get to have double bumps on their heads. Only the males get to have tusks in Asia.

Lesson C. Composition/Creative Writing: Write an Original Rough Draft Essay

<> C-1. Follow these steps to write your essay:

- (1) Read your first line of notes and consider what you want your sentence to say.
- (2) Practice saying your sentence aloud to get it just the way you want it.
- (3) Write your first sentence in your notebook, or key your essay on the computer.
- (4) Be sure to double space your essay to make inputting the Checklist Challenge revisions easier.
- (5) Indent the beginning of each paragraph five spaces.
- (6) Repeat these steps for each line of notes, writing on every other line.

<> C-2. Read your essay aloud. Do you like the way it sounds?