

Notes on English Language

Class: JSS2.

1. Topic: Question Tags.

Content Development:

Question tags are questions attached to statements to confirm what one has said. It intends to hold the attention of listeners and as well make them to participate in the conversation.

It also persuade listeners to agree with the speaker.

Rules that guide Question Tags.

1. If the statement is in the positive and such statement contains 'not', the tag must be in the positive, but if the statement is in the positive and it does not contain 'not', the tag must be in the negative.

Examples:

1. He is not my friend, is he?

Yes, he is.

2. It is beautiful, isn't it?

No, it isn't.

If the statement is in the negative form, if it contains 'not', the tag must be in the positive.

Example:

He is not my friend, is he?

Yes, he is.

If the statement contains an auxiliary/ helping verb, use the helping verb and the subject of the sentence to form the tag.

Example;

She can carry the box, can't she?

Yes, she can.

Evaluation.

Define question tag.

State how to use question tag.

2. Topic: Noun Phrases / Phrasal verbs.

Content Development

A noun phrase is a group of words that have a noun as its key word, it performs the same function as a noun.

It also functions as a subject, object or complement of the sentence.

The subject of a sentence is the performer of an action, the object is the receiver of an action while the complement gives the clearer understanding of either the subject of the sentence.

Examples:

Noun Phrase as a Subject:

The man killed the goat. (the man)

The beautiful girl is my sister. (the beautiful girl)

Noun Phrase as Object:

She slapped the man. (the man)

Peter jumped over the rail yesterday. (over the rail)

Noun Phrase as complement.

That woman is my class teacher. (my class teacher)

His father is the king. (the king)

Phrasal Verbs/ Verbal Phrase.

This is the group of words that have the verb as its key word. It performs the action of the sentence just like the verb.

It is made up of the main verb and the auxiliary/ helping verb.

Examples:

Chike has gone to school. (has gone)

Divine will travel back to school tomorrow. (will travel)

Evaluation

Underline the noun phrase in the following sentences.

1.The man became a lawyer..

2. Chineme and Charlse washed the car yesterday.

Underline the phrasal verbs in the following sentences.

1. Chidumebi may travel to Abuja on Monday.
2. They were ready hours ago.

3. Topic: Argumentative Essay.

Content Development.

Argumentative essay is one of the aspects of essay writing which requires the writer's use of reason to persuade someone to agree to his points of view.

Argumentative essay therefore presents a point of view logical statement and clarity of expression to prove a particular point.

In argumentative essay, the the way the writer introduces the argument, carries it forward in each paragraph with good conclusion should also be examined.

In writing argumentative essay, you are expected to use examples, facts, reasons, illustrations to support each point with good vocabulary and expression.

Stages of Argumentative Essay.

The introductory paragraph:

This clearly state the writer's position.

Example " how many students will use mobile phones wisely if allowed to be used in schools?)

The above are basic questions with obvious answers.

The use of mobile phones should be abolished, below are my answers.

The body of the essay:

Here you try to convince them on the main points of the argument and make them accept the belief they did not hold before. It is very important that you back your opinions with facts if you want to win the case. To make your arguments more effective, use connecting / linking words like however, more over, consequently, etc.

Conclusion.

Here, the writer summarizes all the points mentioned and also re states his/ her stand very convincingly and makes recommendations if the need be.

Assignment

Write an essay on " The evil of examination malpractices.

4. Topic: Tenses of Verb: Present Tense and Future Tense.

Content Development

Tense is the term used to describe the form taken by a verb to indicate the time an action was done.

Examples of tenses of verb includes:

Simple present tense.

Simple past tense.

Simple future tense.

The Simple Present Tense:

This is used when an action is performed regularly, that is, someone does something regularly.

Examples:

I jog every morning..

My father goes to church every Sunday.

The Simple Future Tense.

This is used to refer to an action that will be completed sometimes in the future, that is, something that has not yet happened, but will happen at sometime in the future.

This tense is made up of two parts:

The modal auxiliary 'will/ shall'

The base/ infinite form of the verb used.

Examples:

1. I/ we shall leave for Lagos tomorrow. (shall leave)

2. He/she/ you/ it will leave for Kano tomorrow.

Topic : Letter Writing.

Content Development

Letter writing is one of the most useful skills students after their school career. This is because they always have the need to write letters to friends, relatives, government, business organizations, etc. It is in recognition of the nature of letter writing that examination bodies insist on testing this skill in external/ terminal examinations for secondary school students.

Informal Letters:

Informal letters are personal or friendly letters.

They are the type of letters you write to your friends and relations such as your parents, your aunts, uncles and your friends.

Features:

Features of an informal letter includes:

The sender's address with date.

The salutation.

The body of the letter.

The complimentary closing.

The signature.(yours and pet name or first name)

Exercise

Write a letter to a friend of yours in another school telling him / her about the Inter House Sports competition recently held in your school.

6. Topic Composition Writing--- Content, Organization, Expression and Mechanical accuracy.

Content Development.

The merit of a composition is judged in terms of its content, organization, expression and mechanical accuracy.

Content: The content of any composition is the central theme or the main purpose of writing. Content is the most important aspect of a composition which deals with the relevance of ideas to the central theme and the way the ideas are developed.

Organization:

This refers to the effective arrangement of the separate components of the composition into a coherent whole.

Expression:

This refers to the effectiveness of the language used in the communication of your ideas on paper. The clarity and appropriateness of vocabulary, very good use of punctuation marks, effective arrangement of sentences and the use of figurative language must be taken care of.

Mechanical accuracy:

This includes errors in grammar, errors of punctuations and spelling.

Exercise

Write down two features of organization in essay writing.

7. Topic: Summary Writing; Guide line.

Content Development

A summary is a concise, brief or condensed form of writing.

In summary writing, the following guideline should be strictly taken note of.

Read the whole passage at least twice.

Read the questions carefully.

Note the key words in each question.

Answer one question at a time.

Underline the topic sentences.

Get some points from supporting sentences.

Make rough notes on the answers.

Cut down unnecessary words.

Do not include examples, illustrations..

Proof read your answers to check for any spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors.

Do not exceed the number of sentences required.

8. Topic :Formal Letters

Content Development

Formal letters bare official or business letters written to heads of educational institutions such as principals, vice- chancellors, presidents, governors, head of companies, letters of application for jobs, etc.

Features of formal letters.

- i. The writer's address plus date.
- ii. Designation and address of the recipient.
- iii. Greeting/ salutation.
(Dear Sir, Dear Madam)
- iv. Title (written immediately after the salutation)
- v. Closure
(Yours faithfully)
- vi. Signature of the writer.
- vii. Full name of the writer.

9.Topic: Adverbs and Adverbials.

Content Development

An adverb is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective or other adverbs in a sentence.

Examples of adverbs are words like carelessly, slowly, then, frequently, outside , etc. They tell us how something is done, when or how often it is done, where it is done, to what extent it is done, etc.

For that reason, they are mainly used in a sentence as various kinds of adverbials(as the parts which commonly provide information on such matters as the manner, time, and the place of the action, etc described in a sentence).

For example:

1.As adverbials of manner

He walked slowly.(How did he walk?) She handled it carelessly. (How did she handle it?)

2.As adverbials of time.

He left them this morning . (When did he leave?)

She calls frequently

(How often does she call?)

3. Adverbials of place

He wrote it there. (Where did he write it?)

We hold the meeting outside. (Where do you hold the meeting?)

4. As adverbials of extent (or degree).

They fully agree. (To what extent do they agree?)

She lost entirely. (To what extent or degree did she lose?)

Adverb Forms.

Adverbs can be formed by adding -ly to an adjective, eg:

ADJECTIVE

Careful +ly

Careless +ly

Cheerful +ly

Frequent + ly

Quick + ly

ADVERBS

Carefully

Carelessly

Cheerfully

Frequently

Quickly

However, there are some adjectives which cannot be changed to an adverb by the addition of an -ly ending.

These include: difficult, old, young, long, big, small, ugly, afraid, etc.

There are also adverbs without an -ly ending. These include: above, downstairs, outside, fast, hard, here, there, never, often, soon, then, well, away, etc.

Exercise

Identify the adverbs in the following sentences.

1. Some of them soon became tired.

2. They ran fast.

3. She came very frequently.

4. She looked cheerful on her new dress.