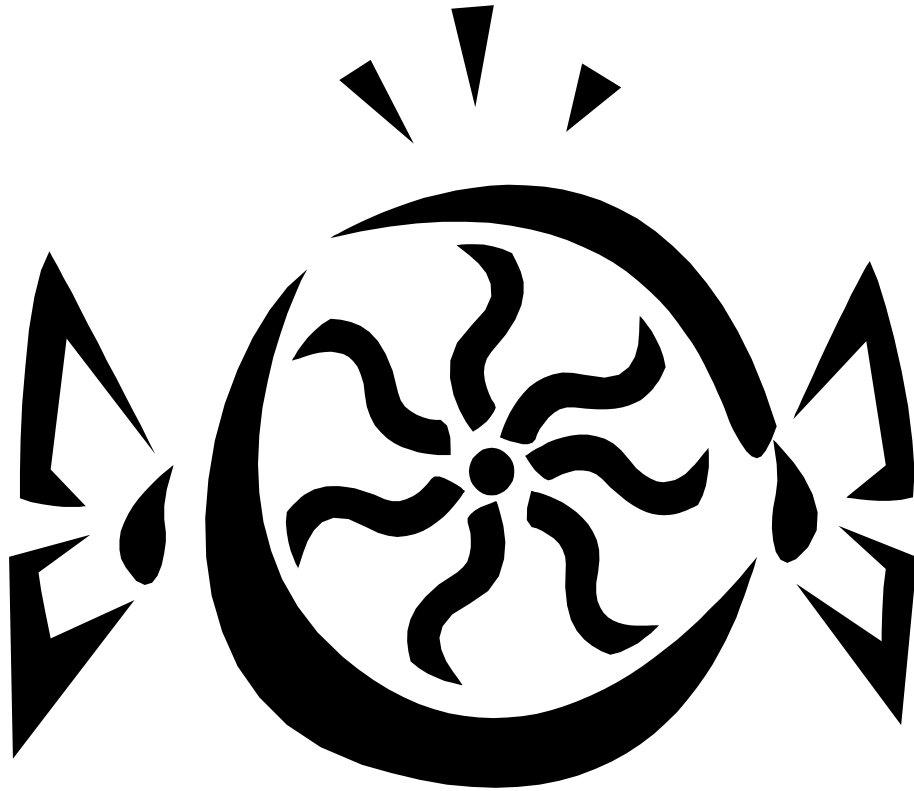


# Revision Practice at Its Best!



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## Introduction

Boy, do students moan and groan when we mention the word revision! Many students believe that to revise simply means to copy their rough draft again, maybe taking time to check punctuation in the process. The fact is that students just do not know how to revise. Over the years, teachers have told students to write a rough draft and a final draft, but we all know that just telling them to revise does not teach them how to do it. Our students need to know exactly what the word revision means.

In an effort to provide a step-by-step method to revise, we developed an acronym to teach twelve mistakes and/or traits on which students should focus when transforming their rough drafts into well-written stories or essays. Using the South Carolina state writing rubric, we pooled together the traits and came up with “MY PEPPERMINTS”, a memorable acronym to help us get the revision job done. By introducing this simple acronym and teaching a method to revision, students become confident in making rough drafts much better; and their final drafts show their efforts. This book will explain the acronym, give you ideas on how to teach revision, and provide you with plenty of handouts and activity sheets for you and your students to use.

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# Practice Variety in Sentence Length!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

When you have variety in the lengths of your sentences, your paper will read much smoother. Practice adding short, one to three word sentences after the following long sentences. The first two have been done for you.

1. My grandma's house is one of my favorite places to visit because of the wonderful smells of the food she cooks, like her fried chicken, buttered corn, and sweet potato pie. Yummy!
2. I will never forget the look of horror on my mother's face when she found out I had cut my little sister's hair. She was flabbergasted!
3. One reason the school week should be shortened to three days is the universal need for a little rest and relaxation. \_\_\_\_\_
4. I slid into third base and stood up smiling because I knew we were about to tie the game. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The lights, snow, candy canes, and wrapping paper are a few of my favorite things during Christmas time, but the best thing about this holiday is time off of school! \_\_\_\_\_

**\*In numbers 6-10, there is a long sentence followed by a short one. Now, you add another long one.**

6. A bigger allowance would allow me to buy all of the things a young teenager needs: clothes and shoes. Did I mention shoes? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When Nate spun around on his heels, he gasped as he came face to face with his worst nightmare. "Why me?" he wondered. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The biggest problem I have with school uniforms is wearing the same outfit to school day after day. Boring! \_\_\_\_\_
9. I will never forget my childhood tree house with its bamboo walls, view of the creek, and toilet seat that we lifted for a door. It was the coolest! \_\_\_\_\_
10. Although it was rumored that the house was haunted, I was not afraid until I felt a slight breeze on my neck and heard the sound of chains. What could it be? \_\_\_\_\_

# Can You Picture It?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions: Make the following descriptions come alive by finding the most powerful, descriptive adjectives possible. Your result should be so detailed that your reader can picture it in his/her mind.**

The \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ house stood alone on the \_\_\_\_\_ hill. Its \_\_\_\_\_ porch with its \_\_\_\_\_ wood called for me to pay a visit. When I reached the door of the house, I turned the \_\_\_\_\_ knob and entered. Inside, I saw the most \_\_\_\_\_ dining room. On the ceiling were \_\_\_\_\_ lights, and on the furniture, there were \_\_\_\_\_ sheets. The \_\_\_\_\_ spider webs in the corners were the only signs of life. In the kitchen, the \_\_\_\_\_ wallpaper was slightly peeling. Strangely, the table was set with fine china, and a tea pot sat on the stove.

Suddenly, I heard \_\_\_\_\_ footsteps coming from the other room. Fear enveloped me, and I could not move. Without breathing, I listened as the steps came closer and closer. Snapping out of my frozen state, I scurried behind the counter and ducked. From my makeshift shelter, I peeked out and saw a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ figure. Its \_\_\_\_\_ eyes were searching the room, and it lifted its \_\_\_\_\_ nose in the air as if trying to pick up a scent. Closing my eyes, I said a \_\_\_\_\_ prayer.

It is too bad that my prayer was not answered. I am writing this \_\_\_\_\_ story from a basement where this \_\_\_\_\_ creature keeps me locked up day and night.

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