

Unit 5 Make it better



1 Michael bought the phone on a whim, but in the end, Michael wished he hadn't bought the phone.

2 Lauren not only completed the project on time, but Lauren also completed the project with exceptional quality.

3 When Laura and Alan left the house, Laura took the red umbrella with her, and Alan took the blue umbrella with him.

4 Claire had wanted chocolate cake, but the bakery only had vanilla cake, so Claire decided to try the vanilla cake.

5 Mark had forgotten to bring his passport, so Mark couldn't board the plane. The others were allowed to board the plane because they'd remembered their passports.

6 The old house on the corner with the slate roof is a beautiful Victorian house, and the old house on the corner with the slate roof has been in our family for generations.

7 Emily agreed to let Martin borrow Emily's book, but Martin wouldn't let Emily borrow Martin's book.

8 It remains to be seen if Declan has what it takes to succeed as a manager, but I have my doubts about whether or not Declan has what it takes to succeed as a manager.

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Activity

In pairs: writing and speaking

Aim

To give students the opportunity to rewrite sentences using reference, substitution, and ellipsis

Grammar

Cohesion

Preparation

Make a copy of the worksheet for each pair and cut it into eight strips.

Time

20 minutes

Teaching notes

Procedure

- › Tell your students that they are going to use reference, substitution, and ellipsis to rewrite some sentences. Put the students in pairs and give each pair a set of sentences.
- › Explain that the sentences are grammatically and lexically correct, but that each could be improved using reference, substitution and/or ellipsis.
- › One student will take a card from the stack, try to shorten it, and then present it to their partner. If their partner is able to shorten it even more, the card is theirs; if not, the first student keeps it.
- › For example, if the first student converts *'Michael bought the phone on a whim, but in the end, Michael wished he hadn't bought the phone.'* into *'Michael bought the phone on a whim, but in the end, he wished he hadn't bought it.'*, but then the second student writes *'Michael bought the phone on a whim but in the end wished he hadn't.'*, the second student wins the card.
- › While the students do the activity, circulate, offer support, and settle any disputes.
- › At the end of the activity, the student in each pair with the most cards wins.

Possible answers

- 1 Michael bought the phone on a whim but in the end wished he hadn't.
- 2 Lauren not only completed the project on time, but with exceptional quality.
- 3 When Laura and Alan left the house, she took the red umbrella with her and he took the blue.
- 4 Claire had wanted chocolate cake, but the bakery only had vanilla so she decided to try it.
- 5 Mark had forgotten to bring his passport, so he couldn't board the plane. The others were allowed to because they'd remembered theirs.
- 6 The old house on the corner with the slate roof is a beautiful Victorian one, and it has been in our family for generations.
- 7 Emily agreed to let Martin borrow her book, but he wouldn't let her borrow his.
- 8 It remains to be seen if Declan has what it takes to succeed as a manager, but I have my doubts.