

Language Primer Writing Exercise

1. How to use a teakettle

A kettle is a metal container to cook liquids or possibly foods, so a teakettle is a type of kettle specifically used for boiling water in order to make tea, or anything that requires boiling water.

First, open the kettle and pour however much water you want into it. Then place the kettle on your stove, turning it to its highest heat setting. Make sure the cover is on and the lid on the spout is closed. Wait until you hear a whistling come from the hole in the spout's lid, then turn off the stove. Carefully open the spout's lid, and pour the boiling water into whatever container you want or need.

--Does it matter what quality of water I use? (ex, filtered, tap, bottled,

It doesn't matter what quality of water you use, just use whatever is most convenient. If you want to filter your water first, that is completely fine, but it will probably end up tasting the same as water from the tap after you make tea with it.

Experiment and do whatever tastes best to you. Bottled water, however, isn't suggested because of the plastic waste and chemicals that could be in the water.

Most of my directions are prescriptive, other than the beginning definition and most of the answer to the question. I do use prescriptive when I say to "use whatever is most convenient" and tell the hypothetical follower of my instructions to experiment, but again the only other places I use prescriptive language is in the actual steps of using a kettle.

2. The main difference between reporting one's feelings and venting one's feelings lies in the reason why they are being discussed in the first place, and what is expected or desired to come of the expression of feelings. Reporting one's feelings usually occurs in order to respond to someone, so that the conversation or general situation can move on. A simple example would be when one asks, "How are you doing today?" and, for the purpose of continuing the current conversation, the person would respond with a phrase like "I'm fine" or "I feel tired today." Reporting one's feeling tends to be like a statement of fact. On the other hand, venting one's feelings is related more to expressing one's emotions solely for the benefit of the person expressing them. There is no real expectation that much will happen because of it, other than the relief of the speaker for having someone hear them and understand their feelings. For example, if someone is frustrated because they have been dealing with a particularly difficult coworker and immediately after work they tell their friends all about how angry they are about it, this would be venting and not reporting because they are only doing it out of frustration, not expecting much to actually happen because of it. However, if a friend were to ask them the next day how they are feeling with the coworker today and they responded, that would be reporting one's feelings--even though they could spiral into venting their feelings again. Venting has to do with pure emotions and expressing purely how one feels in the current moment, without regard to how these emotions exist in or affect the world. This difference is reflected by the difference between type A and type D language, because with type D it is used solely to reveal personal feelings and attitudes, like venting does, whereas type A is related to how the person and their feelings are as part of the world, more similar to reporting one's feelings.

3. The recipe I've chosen is Pillsbury's Perfect Apple Pie recipe.

The very beginning of this recipe offers some description not of the pie, but of the “simple joy” it is to both make and eat this pie. It is a bit difficult to prescribe a type of language to this section, because it is, in a way, describing what the pie is like and how it affects the people who will eat it; this would be about something that exists in the world, but it isn't technically baked yet and talks very specifically about the emotions of it.

Therefore I think it could be described as a type of implicit type F language that tries to convince you that it will be amazing, in order to persuade you to make the pie and use Pillsbury's crust while doing so. It uses normative language (type E) to make claims about its value and some hypothetical descriptive language to describe how it exists in the world.

For the instructions to make the pie themselves, they are almost purely type C (prescriptive), with the occasional explanation as to why you should do a certain part, which I suppose could be type A.

<https://www.pillsbury.com/recipes/perfect-apple-pie/1fc2b60f-0a4f-441e-ad93-8bbd00fe5334>