

Boost Free Lessons - Year 10 English

Lesson 1: Objective vs Subjective Language

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Which sentence is objective, and what is hidden in the other?

A. *The policy was introduced in March.*

B. *The policy was quietly introduced in March.*

1. **Objective** language reports what can be verified. **Subjective** language carries judgement.
2. Sentence A states a date, which can be checked against a record.
3. Sentence B adds *quietly*. That is not a fact about timing; it is a judgement about intent.
4. The judgement is smuggled in as though it were part of the report, which is why it is easy to miss.

A is objective. B inserts *quietly*, which implies concealment while appearing to state a fact.

Worked Example 2

Why is the sentence below not as objective as it appears?

Only 12 per cent of residents opposed the plan.

1. A number looks objective, but the words around it can still carry judgement.
2. *Only* tells the reader the figure is small, which is an interpretation rather than data.
3. Remove it and the sentence reports the same figure without steering the reader.
4. Watch for words like *only*, *just*, *merely* and *as many as* around statistics.

The figure is objective, but *only* instructs the reader to see it as small.

Remember: **Objective** language can be verified. **Subjective** language judges. Watch for judgement smuggled into apparently factual sentences through single words such as *only*, *finally* or *admitted*.



Question 1: Write whether each sentence is **objective** or **subjective**.

1. The building was completed in 1974.

2. The building was finally completed in 1974.

3. Attendance fell by six per cent.

4. Attendance plummeted by a worrying six per cent.

5. The committee met three times.

6. The committee managed to meet three times.

7. Some residents objected to the proposal.

8. A vocal minority objected to the proposal.



Question 2: Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

The department reluctantly released the figures on 14 April. A spokesperson admitted that merely nine per cent of applications had been processed. The report ran to ninety pages, and failed to explain the delay.

1. Find two subjective words in the passage.

2. What does the word *admitted* imply that *said* would not?

3. Rewrite the first sentence objectively.

4. Which sentence is closest to objective? Explain.

5. How does the writer use a statistic subjectively?



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Write an objective sentence reporting a sporting result.

2. Rewrite it so the same result sounds like a disaster.

3. Explain why a statistic alone does not make a sentence objective.

4. Why is fully objective writing almost impossible to achieve?





Every student has gaps. The hard part is knowing exactly where they are.
That is what a Boost assessment is for.

Book a Free Assessment

Normally valued at \$199, free for new families

- A friendly skills check aligned to the NSW syllabus
- Face to face with our qualified tutors
- A clear picture of your child's strengths and gaps
- A weekly plan built around what they actually need

Book a Free Assessment →

boosttutoring.com.au/contact



Answers and Model Responses: Objective vs Subjective Language**Question 1**

1. Objective
2. Subjective
3. Objective
4. Subjective
5. Objective
6. Subjective
7. Objective
8. Subjective

Question 2

1. Any two of: **reluctantly, admitted, merely, failed.**
2. *Admitted* implies the speaker was concealing something and was forced to concede it. *Said* carries no such implication.
3. Model: The department released the figures on 14 April.
4. Model: *The report ran to ninety pages.* It states a checkable fact with no judgement attached.
5. It writes *merely nine per cent*, which instructs the reader to read the figure as small rather than letting them judge.

Question 3

1. Model response: The team lost the semi-final by four points.
2. Model response: The team crashed out of the semi-final, surrendering a four-point lead.
3. The number may be accurate while the words framing it steer the reader. *Only, just* and *as many as* all interpret a figure without changing it.
4. Every text involves choosing what to include, what to leave out and which words to use, and each of those choices carries some judgement.

