Lesson 10
Consistency in Style and Tone

When you write, choose a style and tone that suit your purpose and audience. You might choose a formal style and serious tone for a report. For a personal e-mail, you might choose an informal style and humorous tone. Once you’ve decided on a style and tone, you need to be consistent.

- The words you choose and your sentence patterns form your **style**.
  
  | Formal | During meteorological events, animals tend to scatter. |
  | Informal | It’s raining. Look at that mouse run for cover. It’s fast! |

- Your tone shows your attitude toward your subject and/or readers. For example, a tone may be serious, playful, humorous, angry, calm, joyful, or sad.

  | Serious | Some animals seek shelter in and under trees or bushes. |
  | Playful | Can a lizard use a tree as an umbrella? It sure can! |

Guided Practice
Read the passage. Then rewrite the underlined sentences to match the style and tone of the rest of the passage.

**Hint**

The style and tone of the story are informal and casual. The underlined sentences contain language that is either too poetic or too technical. Replace them with language that matches the story’s style and tone.

“Our camping trip is off to a great start,” said Dad. We had just begun to unpack. Then crack, sizzle! Lightning flashed through the sky. Thunder made the mountains tremble in fear.

“Run to the car!” yelled Dad. “We’ll wait it out there.” After an hour, the rain stopped. When we exited the vehicle, we found that our belongings had absorbed a vast amount of moisture!

1

2
(1) Saving our local campground is of great importance. (2) First, it gives kids a bunch of outside stuff to do, like running around by the river. (3) There is also nothing quite like the thrill of snoozing under the stars, outside of the city. (4) I know that building new houses matters, but keeping a space for people to enjoy nature is necessary, too. (5) Can you imagine if this option were taken away? (6) No way, I say!

1. What revision of sentence 2 best matches the style and tone of sentence 1?
   A. First, it offers children outdoor exercise, such as hiking.
   B. First, it allows kids to finally get a chance to run around.
   C. First, it lets children do stuff, like run around outside.
   D. First, kids get to run around the river and do other outside stuff.

2. Which sentence should be deleted because it introduces a tone that is inconsistent with most of the paragraph?
   A. sentence 1
   B. sentence 4
   C. sentence 5
   D. sentence 6

3. Which best replaces the word snoozing in sentence 3 to add a formal style and serious tone to the paragraph?
   A. catching some z’s
   B. falling asleep
   C. nodding off
   D. getting some shut-eye

4. Which sentence could be added to the paragraph without changing its style or tone?
   A. Nobody gets it!
   B. We need to stop those pesky builders from taking over!
   C. They’ve really got to leave our campground alone.
   D. We must preserve our local campground!