

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put students into small groups to discuss the meaning. Elicit a few ideas. Explain that writing 'less' often requires more skill than writing 'more.'
2. Task 1: Mini dialogues (20 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate this pairwork writing activity with you as Student A and the rest of the class as student B. Write the first line of a dialogue on the board - e.g. Did you do anything interesting last night?. Ask students to count how many words you've used (7). Elicit a response from any student to continue the dialogue, but with 6 words - e.g. Not really, I was at home. Continue the dialogue with a 5 word sentence - e.g. Were you at home along? Elicit a 4 word sentence and so on. Continue until the mini dialogue concludes with one word. Students repeat the activity in pairs A and B. Both students should write the first line of dialogue using seven words. Then they should exchange papers and both students should continue their partner's dialogue using six words, etc. Each pair is writing two mini dialogues at the same time. Point out that contractions such as don't count as two words. When students finish, check the dialogues for errors and get students to make any necessary changes.
3. Task 2 - Mini sagas reading (20 - 25 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write <i>mini saga</i> on the board and ask students what it means. Explain that a mini saga is a story, joke or anecdote written in exactly 50 words. Note: <i>A mini saga is a piece of writing with exactly fifty words. It has to tell a story, have a beginning, a middle and an ending. Mini sagas were 'invented' by the Science fiction writer Brian Aldiss, who thought it would be fun and challenging to tell a story in very few words. The Sunday Telegraph holds a mini saga competition each year.</i> Give each student a copy of Task 2. Students follow the instructions on their worksheet, working in pairs, taking turns to delete one word at a time from a text until exactly fifty words remain. When students finish, read the original mini saga (below) aloud for students to check their answers. If any pair has a different version, check to make sure there are no errors. Original text: <i>"Water should never lie still" the old gypsy said, joining two puddles together with a stick. The businessman was intrigued and had an idea. He spoke to the government and announced his new plan to join two larger puddles together. Ships now sail through Panama instead of around Cape Horn.</i> By John Morgan, University of Aberystwyth, UK.
4. Task 3 - Writing (30 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students work alone to write a mini saga. First they should spend a few minutes thinking of what they are going to write about. Write a few ideas on

the board to help: A description of a favourite object, place, person; a joke, something funny or scary that happened to you; a synopsis of a film you have watched or a book you have read; a letter to an old school teacher, friend or relative; your views on a topic, etc. Students write their first draft, then spend time editing, cutting out or adding words until the text has exactly 50 words. Monitor students while they work, correcting any errors and offering encouragement..

Contributed by

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