Telegraphic Sentences
(Intermediate; Preparing for Advanced level)

Context Current events

Function Reporting facts of a story

Purpose Like slash sentences, telegraphic sentences provide the essential elements to be incorporated into a story, but the format of the stimulus material looks more like a set of notes than a grammatical exercise, thus more closely stimulating an authentic task. Students are encouraged to embellish the story as they like. As an Intermediate-level task, students are asked to describe the events using the present tense, as if they were eyewitnesses reporting the action as it happens. As a preparation for Advanced-level writing, students narrate the events as a reporter would, using appropriate past tenses as they tell the story presented in the telegraphic cues.

Student Task You are a journalist who has just interviewed a witness to a UFO incident. The notes you made during the interview are given below. Write out your report in as much detail as you can, recounting the events in the past.