

Sentence Length Guide

Sentence Length	Comments		Usage
Less than 8 words (1 line in a Word document)	Very short sentence		OK, but don't use too many of these, as writing can appear short, 'choppy', and hard to read
8-15 words (1-1½ lines)	Short sentence	✓	OK if combined with sentences of 15-25 words
15-25 words (2-3 lines)	Average sentence	✓✓	This length will form the majority of your sentences
25-35 words (3-4 lines)	Somewhat long sentence	✓	Can be effective if the point is worth making in a single sentence; make sure you have control over the idea(s) though, and use appropriate connecting/linking words when writing
35-45 words (4-5 lines)	Long sentence	✗	Consider breaking up your idea(s) into two or more shorter (15-25 word) sentences
45 words + (5+ lines)	Very long / Too long	✗✗	Avoid sentences of this length as the point that you are trying to make will get lost; control over the language is lessened, and chances for errors in form and logic increase.