

## (1) Tragic Vocabulary

**Tragedy:** A genre which usually involves suffering, sadness and death.

**Tragic hero:** The protagonist of a tragedy who starts heroically but has a dramatic downfall.

**Hamartia:** A character flaw in the tragic hero which leads to their own death (and the deaths of others).

Examples: ambition, jealousy, anger.

**Tragic waste:** The unnecessary loss of life of a good, honest or innocent character.

**Catharsis:** The release of tension and relaxation of the audience's emotions through having empathised with the characters.

**Comic relief:** Humorous scenes which are intended to lighten the mood of tragedy plays, usually placed next to a particularly dark or serious scene.

## (2) Its or It's

Its and It's have different meanings and can be easy to mix up as they break the apostrophe rule for possession, they need to be remembered separately.

**Its:** (no apostrophe) Belonging to someone or something.

Example: *The parrot flapped its wings.*

**It's:** (with apostrophe) A contraction of it is.

Example: *It's raining today.*

## (3) Structure Vocabulary

Writers think carefully about the **structure** of their writing in order to engage the reader or audience or to express certain ideas.

**Opening:** The first part of a text, used to spark the interest of the reader, usually with dramatic events or an exciting setting.

**Shift:** A change in the time, setting, mood or character.

**Ending:** The final part of a text, often a resolution of events, sometimes with surprising or unexpected outcomes.

**Cyclical:** A text which ends where it started (goes round in a cycle).

**Parallels:** Two parts of a text which are very similar in structure to create a link.

**Cliff-hanger:** A dramatic ending where the story is left incomplete and the reader is left wondering.

**Flashback/Flashforward:** The events of a text move backwards or forwards in time.

## (4) Scale of Agreement

Sometimes there is no right or wrong answer to a topic, only different opinions. When giving an opinion you can agree to different extents.

**Completely, totally, wholly, unreservedly, utterly:** You agree or disagree without any doubt or room for questioning.  
Example: *I completely disagree with violence, it is always unnecessary.*

**Partially, somewhat, moderately, I agree/disagree to a certain extent, I agree/disagree to a certain degree:** You agree/disagree with some of the statement/topic, but not all of it.  
Example: *I partially agree with the decision to set homework but I can also see the problems it causes.*

## (5) Persuasive Methods 2

In addition to remembering the **MADFOREST** techniques for persuasion, you could use these.

**Hypophora:** When you ask a question and then immediately answer it yourself.

Example: *Would you vote for change? Of course you would!*

**Anecdote:** A short, personal story that helps your audience or reader understand your idea.

Example: *Just last week a witnessed a terrible example of littering as I walked down the street and saw crisp packets everywhere.*

**Flattery:** Complimenting your reader or audience to gain their support.

Example: *An intelligent individual like you will of course support this decision.*

**Exaggeration:** Going over the top or over-elaborating a point in order to make appear more important, bigger or better than necessary.

Example: *This is the greatest fair in the world, you have to visit!*

## (6) - and ...

**Dash (-):** Used to add extra information at the end of a sentence. A dash is a mid sentence punctuation and does not need a capital letter after it.

Example: *Please call my mum - she's at home.*

**Ellipsis (...):** Used to show a pause, hesitation or interruption in speech. An ellipsis can also be used to indicate missing words from a quotation to shorten it.

Examples: *"I'm... I'm pleasantly surprised." 'The house was large, red, brick...and built over 100 years ago.'*

An ellipsis can also be used to leave a cliffhanger at the end of a sentence or text.

Example: *Suddenly, it was gone...*

