## Lesson 3: Show, not tell!

The **Show, Not Tell** technique is a way of writing where, instead of saying an emotion, action, or fact directly, the writer uses clear descriptions, actions, and senses to explain it. This helps the reader understand what's happening and feel more connected to the story by using their imagination.

## Key Differences Between "Show" and "Tell":

1. **Telling**:
   This involves directly informing the reader about how a character feels or what is happening.
   - Example: *She was nervous.*
2. **Showing**:
   This involves describing the character's actions, thoughts, body language, and surroundings to reveal their emotions without saying it directly.
   - Example: *Her hands trembled as she reached for the door handle, her breath shallow and quick.*

## Why Use "Show, Not Tell"?

- **More Engaging**: Showing makes the story come alive by painting a vivid picture in the reader's mind.
- **Creates Emotion**: It allows readers to experience the emotions themselves, rather than being told what to feel.
- **Involves the Senses**: When showing, you describe how things look, sound, feel, smell, and taste, which draws the reader deeper into the world you're creating.

## How to Show, Not Tell:

1. **Use Descriptive Language**:
   Instead of telling the reader how a character feels, describe their physical reactions, surroundings, and thoughts.
   - Tell: *He was scared.*
   - Show: *His heart raced as the shadows in the room seemed to stretch toward him, cold sweat forming on his brow.*
2. **Describe Actions**:
   Actions are a great way to convey emotion without stating it outright.
   - Tell: *She was excited.*
   - Show: *She bounced on her toes, her eyes sparkling as she spoke a mile a minute about her plans.*
3. **Include Dialogue**:
   What a character says, and how they say it, can also show emotion.
   - Tell: *He was angry.*
   - Show: *"How could you do this?" he spat, his voice low and sharp, fists clenched at his sides.*

4. **Invoke the Senses**:
   Engaging multiple senses makes a scene more vivid.
   ○ Tell: *The soup tasted bad.*
   ○ Show: *The first spoonful hit her tongue, and she gagged, the bitter, metallic flavor clinging to her mouth.*

## Examples of "Show, Not Tell":

- **Tell**: *The classroom was noisy.*
- **Show**: *Chairs scraped against the floor, overlapping voices filled the air, and the constant tapping of pencils against desks echoed around the room.*
- **Tell**: *He was exhausted.*
- **Show**: *His eyelids drooped, and his head bobbed as he fought to stay awake, a deep yawn escaping as he rubbed his heavy eyes.*

## Conclusion:

The **Show, Not Tell** technique adds depth to writing by helping readers visualize the scene and emotions, making the story more immersive and relatable. Instead of telling the reader directly how the character feels, **showing** lets the reader **experience** the emotion themselves.

## Lesson 3: Show, not tell examples:

Here are some examples of simple and complex sentences using the **show, not tell** technique for various emotions:

## 1. Happiness

- **Simple Sentence**:
  *She was happy when she got her gift.*
- **Complex Sentence (Show, not Tell)**:
  *Her eyes lit up as she tore through the wrapping paper, a wide grin spreading across her face while she jumped up and down, unable to contain her excitement.*

## 2. Sadness

- **Simple Sentence**:
  *He felt sad after losing his favorite toy.*
- **Complex Sentence (Show, not Tell)**:
  *His shoulders slumped as he stared at the empty space on the shelf where his toy once sat, a tear silently rolling down his cheek while he bit his trembling lip.*

### 3. Fear

- **Simple Sentence**:
  *She was scared during the storm.*
- **Complex Sentence (Show, not Tell)**:
  *Her heart pounded in her chest, and her hands gripped the blanket tightly as the thunder crashed outside, eyes darting nervously toward the window every time the lightning lit up the room.*

### 4. Anger

- **Simple Sentence**:
  *He was angry when he saw the broken vase.*
- **Complex Sentence (Show, not Tell)**:
  *His fists clenched, and his jaw tightened as he stared at the shattered pieces on the floor, nostrils flaring with every sharp breath he took, his voice a low growl when he finally spoke.*

### 5. Disgust

- **Simple Sentence**:
  *She was disgusted by the foul smell.*
- **Complex Sentence (Show, not Tell)**:
  *Her nose wrinkled, and her face twisted in revulsion as the sour stench hit her, causing her to step back, hand instinctively covering her mouth to block the overwhelming odor.*

### 6. Surprise

- **Simple Sentence**:
  *He was surprised by the sudden news.*
- **Complex Sentence (Show, not Tell)**:
  *His eyes widened, and his mouth fell open, frozen in shock for a moment before he blinked rapidly, struggling to process the unexpected words that echoed in his mind.*

### 7. Love

- **Simple Sentence**:
  *She loved spending time with her best friend.*
- **Complex Sentence (Show, not Tell)**:
  *Her heart felt light and warm whenever they laughed together, and the hours slipped by unnoticed as their conversations flowed effortlessly, leaving her with a smile long after they parted ways.*