



AO2 Base Therapy

AO2 requires you to **explain** how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers. You need to be able to identify features. Perhaps you are already becoming more confident with a range of techniques.

These may include some or all of the following:

- Adjectives
- Verbs
- Metaphors
- Alliteration
- Sentence types
- Sentence length
- Beginnings and endings
- Lists

Remember that subject terminology is there to support your views. This means that it is doing the job of backing up your thinking, not doing the whole job itself. To show you the difference, read the extract below and the example paragraphs that follow. As you read, consider the effect of the moments in bold in particular.

You can't run far with a four-year-old child in your arms. They are already too big, too heavy, too awkward to carry with any speed.

I wanted to get Pat home to the car, but I staggered out of the park knowing that wasn't going to be quick enough.

I burst into the café where we had eaten green spaghetti, **Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms**. It was lunch time and the place was full of office workers in suits stuffing their faces. They stared at us open mouthed, fork twirled with carbonara suspended in mid-air.

'Get an ambulance!'

Nobody moved.

Then the kitchen doors flew open and Cyd came through them, a tray piled high with food in one hand and her order pad in the other. She looked at us for a moment, flinching at the sight of Pat's lifeless body, the blood all over my hands and shirt, and the blind panic on my face.

Then she expertly slid the tray on to the nearest table and came towards us.

'It's my son! Get an ambulance!'

'It will be quicker if I drive you,' she said.



You need 3 steps within your answer:

1. Feature
2. Supporting example
3. Clear effect

You will need these in A02 Language questions and A02 structure questions and your teacher will support your understanding of which is which in your exam paper.

Let's consider the first two steps.

1. Feature	2. Supporting example
List of three describing words	Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms.
Direct speech/short sentence	'Get an ambulance!' Nobody moved.

There is no need to do more than simply give the feature and example in a concise (short, sharp) way:

The writer uses a list of three: "Pat still pale and silent and bleeding my in arms."

Or

The writer uses direct speech in the middle of the extract 'Get an ambulance!' This is immediately followed by the short sentence 'nobody moved'

The most critical thing is the explanation. Read the examples below and think about whether they do the job of explaining the effect:

1. The writer uses a list of three describing words: "Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms." **This makes us see what Pat looks like.**
2. The writer uses a list of three describing words: "Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms." **Pale, silent and bleeding all give a slightly different effect.**
3. The writer uses a list of three describing words: "Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms." **It helps you picture it and you want to read on.**



Unfortunately, these explanations are too simple and generalised. They don't explain the specifics. They don't explain HOW it achieves the effect.

Read the redrafts of the generalised answers below:

1. The writer uses a list of three: "Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms." **All three words make us see that Pat is ill and injured and so when the words are put next to each other, the situation seems very serious.**
2. The writer uses a list of three: "Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms." **The first describing word 'pale' has the effect of making Pat seem lifeless, without blood, maybe even dead. 'Silent' suggests he is unconscious and 'bleeding' shows danger as he has to get treatment quickly.**
3. The writer uses a list of three: "Pat still pale and silent and bleeding in my arms." **These words give a feeling of emergency. It seems like Pat is dying and so the reader feels panic as well and a need to find out if he makes it.**

Finally, let's look at the second feature:

Direct speech/short sentence	'Get an ambulance!' Nobody moved.
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Here is a simple, generalised answer:

The writer uses direct speech 'Get an ambulance!' to make it dramatic. The short sentence after it 'nobody moved' is shocking.

Below, rewrite this answer to include more specific explanation:

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