

# Review

When writing a definition essay, remember the following points:

## Thesis Statement and Restatement of the Thesis

Here is an example of a thesis statement for definition essays:

*Disease X can be further defined according to its causes, symptoms, and treatment.*

In the restatement of the thesis, which appears in the conclusion, include the **general class** and use words that are different to those in the thesis statement. Here are three possible restatements:

*In conclusion, disease X, which is a (**general class**), can be understood in terms of its causes, symptoms, and treatment.*

*In conclusion, disease X is a (**general class**) that can be understood in terms of its causes, symptoms, and treatment.*

*In conclusion, defining the causes, symptoms, and treatment of X leads to a better understanding of this (**general class**).*

## Cohesion

When writing the definition essay, look for opportunities to use each one of these techniques **at least once** in your essay, if possible based on the information in the outline.

- 1) Start a sentence with a transition, especially the following:

*In addition,*                      *Besides these,*                      *However,*

- 2) Use also in the middle of a sentence.

- 3) Use “as well” at the end of a short sentence that has one, two, or three simple items in a list:

*Fever, nausea, and vomiting occur as well.*

- 4) Use words of commonness / uncommonness at the beginning of a sentence or before a verb:

*Often, headaches occur. Dizziness sometimes occurs.*

- 5) Begin a sentence with a purpose.
- 6) Begin a sentence with time / degree / location / In (people or %), and “if.”

*Two hours later, ...      In mild cases, ...      At home, ...*

*In 50% of patients, ...      If the patient experiences ... ,*

- 7) Use reference words (especially “it” / “this” / “these”).
- 8) Use “another” / “other.”
- 9) If the paragraph is long, the reader must be reminded of the topic of the paragraph and the name of the disease or condition somewhere in the middle or toward the end of the paragraph.

***Another** method that is used to **diagnose cardiac arrhythmia** is echocardiography.*

***Other causes of hypercholesterolemia** include smoking and lack of exercise.*

*A noninvasive test called the string test may **also** be used to **diagnose beaver fever**.*

***In addition**, physical therapy is recommended to **treat a broken leg**.*

- 10) Do not mention more than four items in a list.

*The patient experiences high fever, uncontrollable shivering, which is called rigors, severe headache, and vomiting.*

More than four items may be listed with the expressions “as well as + and.”  
(Don’t forget the comma before “as well as.”)

*The patient experiences fever, stomach pain, and diarrhea, **as well as** nausea **and** vomiting.*

**Practice:** Write a sentence using “as well as” for the following causes of pneumonia: viruses, bacteria, fungi, yeasts, protozoa.

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11) Using Modals

- a) Use “may” or “can” in causes, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment paragraphs when possibility is indicated in the outline.
- b) When writing about what the doctor does to diagnose or treat a condition, do not use “can.”

*The doctor **can** perform a liver biopsy.*  
*The doctor **may** perform a liver biopsy.*  
*A liver biopsy **may** be performed.*

WRONG  
CORRECT  
CORRECT

- c) “Possible” is used with causes and symptoms when possibility is indicated in the outline.

*A **possible** cause / symptom is ...*  
*Another **possible** cause / symptom is...*

***Possible** causes / symptoms are / include ...*  
***Other possible** causes / symptoms are / include ...*

- d) Use “options” with possible diagnosis and treatment.

*A possible diagnostic / treatment **option** is ...*  
*Another possible diagnostic / treatment **option** is ...*

***Possible** diagnostic / treatment **options** are / include ...*  
***Other possible** diagnostic / treatment **options** are / include ...*

- e) Use “must” and “should” in treatment paragraphs. “Must” carries more strength and obligation than “should”, while “should” can be used as a suggestion.

*At home, the patient **must** carefully follow his physical therapist’s instructions.*

Please note that in general English, a distinction is made in the use of “must” and “should”: “must” indicating necessity and “should” indicating advisability.