Answers to Questions

How to write an informative answer (i/a) to a question

You must assume that your reader doesn’t know the question (even if he/she does!). But don’t write out the question because that’s time-consuming; instead, write your answer in a way that makes the question fairly obvious.

One way: if the Q. can be answered yes or no, don’t just write either word and stop; instead, finish the sentence with the key words from the Q.

Example

Q: Was the name of anyone in “The Lottery” symbolic?

Poor answer: Yes. [with no following explanation].

Better answer: Yes, Mr. Graves’ name was symbolic. [Q. now fairly obvious, but still not sufficiently informative]

Best answer: Yes, Mr. Graves’ name was symbolic of the early, savage grave that awaited the lottery winner.