

Wednesday 1st July, 2020

Phrasal Power of Three

On Friday you are going to be completing a Big Write by writing a persuasive letter to your old commander to ask for a job at St Mary's school and to make clear why you would be write for the job!

Your commanding officer is obviously Mr Spencer, so here is a picture of him from 1916. He hasn't changed a bit!



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Before you do this, you will need to use the persuasive technique of phrasal power of three! "What on Earth is phrasal Power of Three?" I hear you ask with tempered enthusiasm.

Do not worry! Commander Spencer is going to explain all below.



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A power of three is where we use three words or phrases to add emphasis or detail to something we are describing or arguing for.

For instance, when we describe something, we may use three adjectives to add detail to a noun.

For example "The disgusting, smelly and putrid Year 4 class" would be both a power of three and an accurate description of Year 4!



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If we were using a phrasal power of three, we would repeat part of a phrase, three times to add emphasis.

For example, if I was attempting to promote myself to get a job I might say "I have great skill, I have great experience and I have an amazing attitude to learn." In this sentence, "I have" is the repeated phrase.



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In order to fully understand this "phrasal power of three", we first need to have a look at it in context.

Look at the section from Mr. Spencer's letter below and look out for any power of three used.

I must confess that this job is needed under the gravest of circumstances. After losing my job, immediately after leaving the army, I have since lost my family, I have lost my home and I have lost everything that I own. It has been a terrible time for myself over the last few years as I feel alone, I feel neglected and I feel impoverished. Whilst I used to have honour, I used to have freedom and I used to have dignity, I now have nothing and so I come to you now to ask my dearest old commander for a job.



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Task 1 (All)

Read through Mr. Spencer's example letter underlining each phrasal power of three.

Underline the entire sentence with a pencil and the exact repeated phrase (e.g. I have lost) with a colored pencil of your choice.

If confident, move on to Task 3

If not quite as confident Task 2

Persuasive letter

Commander Spencer
St Mary's Catholic Academy
Ford Green Rd,
Stoke-On-Trent
ST6 8EZ

Dear Mr Spencer,

I am writing to you now to express my sincere interest in your advert for a teaching position at St Mary's Catholic Academy. In addition, I am also contacting you now to offer myself for this extremely privileged position.

I must confess that this job is needed under the gravest of circumstances. After losing my job, immediately after leaving the army, I have since lost my family, I have lost my home and I have lost everything that I own. It has been a terrible time for myself over the last few years as I feel alone, I feel neglected and I feel impoverished. Whilst I used to have honour, I used to have freedom and I used to have dignity, I now have nothing and so I come to you now to ask my dearest old commander for a job.

I feel it is now important to remind you of why I was such an effective soldier in your regiment and why these qualities are suitable for a school. I have great experience in the education sector, great confidence with working with children and a great amount of ingenuity. I can benefit the school with my inspiration, I can benefit the school with my sense of discipline and I can benefit the school with a strong community spirit.

I would be very grateful to work at such an amazing, school. I believe St Mary's to be the greatest, most creative and fun school to be a part of. I have also heard that the pupils of St Mary's are the hardest working children within the local area and furthermore, I believe there to be nowhere that is as enjoyable to work as your wonderful establishment.

Overall, I would be forever grateful to be a part of the school and I look forward to hearing from you soon in regard to this job advertisement. Thank you for your time, thank you for your patients and thank you for reading this letter.

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Task 2

Fill in the gaps with the correct repeated phrase to complete the power of three.

Extend sentences to create phrasal power of three.

If confident- move on to task 4

If not confident- move on to task 3



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Task 3

Independently create phrasal power of three(s) for the scenarios outlined on your task sheet.

If confident, move on to task 4.

If not confident, further practice- contact Mr. Spencer



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Task 4

Write a paragraph for a letter explaining why you are right for the job, including phrasal powers of three.

Challenge

Attempt to integrate other language features into your paragraph such as relative clauses, fronted adverbials and adjectival power of three.

