

Chapter 6 – Sentence Structures

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In TMG data is entered in Tags, and within those Tags, it is entered in individual fields. The data fields for an event include those that identify the participants, Date, various place fields, and one for a Memo. The Sentence Structures in each Tag are templates, or maps, which tell TMG how to assemble the information in those fields to generate narrative style reports. Charts and other styles of reports do not use Sentence Structures, but have their own systems for formatting the information from selected tags. Nor are Sentence Structures used to create TMG screens.

Table 6-1 may help you determine how Sentence Structures fit into your method of using TMG, or even if they do at all.

If Table 6-1 suggests that managing Sentence Structures would help achieve your objectives in using TMG, this chapter may help you master this feature. The first part of the chapter covers general concepts and principles that are useful to understand if you want to become comfortable working with Sentences Structures. Following that are sections that discuss in detail the various elements that are used in their construction.

If you ...	then you ...
are mainly interested in viewing your data on screen, or in non-narrative reports like Pedigree and Dependency Charts, Family Group Sheets, and Box Charts,	can ignore Sentence Structures.
use narrative style reports, but want to keep your data entry simple, without having to know anything about Sentence Structures,	can enter all details beyond basic events related to birth, marriage, and death into Anecdote Tags, entering complete sentences into the Tag Memo field.
want a bit more structure, but still to keep it simple and have your information appear in reports without undue regard for style,	can use the default Sentence Structures, choosing the Tag Type for each event that records the information in an acceptable fashion with minimal attention on your part.
want to record a rich variety of information and have it displayed in narrative Reports in a reasonably readable fashion,	should customize the Sentence Structures of default Tag Types and create custom Tag Types to express what you have in mind, probably using Roles, and occasionally customizing the Sentence Structures of individual Tags to address specific or unusual cases.
want to get the information recorded, with the intent of later polishing the text when you publish it,	should use a combination of default Tags and customized Sentence Structures as required to adequately record your information, then polish the text in your word processor when you get to the publishing stage.
want to be able to create and update at any time reports or web pages that contain polished prose, including the variation in flow that distinguishes good prose from computer-generated text,	Should use customized Sentence Structures for default Tag Types, custom Tag Types, including use of Roles, and heavily customize the Sentence Structures of individual Tags to achieve the quality of prose you desire.

Table 6-1: Deciding How to Use Sentence Structures