

# Creating Variety in Sentences



Techniques to Strengthen Sentence  
Beginnings and Sentence Structures



How do you begin your sentences? How do you create variety?

Not every sentence has to begin with the subject or a noun!

# Single Word Modifier(s)



Try using an adjective or adverb at the beginning of the sentence

Example: Tired, the young girl flopped on her bed.

Example: Excitedly, the children raced to the bus that would take them to the zoo.

# Prepositional Phrase



- Try using a prepositional phrase or a series of prepositional phrases at the beginning of the sentence.
- Example: With great concern the parent hugged his daughter.
- Example: At the end of the road, Jenny stopped to think.

# Participle/Participial Phrase



- Try using a participle or a participial phrase at the beginning of the sentence.
- Example: Blushing, Susan took her seat in the back of the room.
- Example: Wondering what to do next, George paused at the foot of the stairs.

# Gerund / Gerund Phrase



- Try using a gerund or gerund phrase at the beginning of the sentence.
- Example: Fishing fills his weekends.
- Example: Running a marathon is an ambitious goal.

# Infinitive / Infinitive Phrase



- Try using an infinitive or infinitive phrase at the beginning of the sentence.
- Example: To swim took all of his energy.
- Example: To win the game, the team had to work together.

# Absolute Phrase



- Try using an absolute phrase at the beginning of the sentence.
- Example: Her eyes opening wide, the little girl stared at the pile of presents.
- Example: Dishes falling everywhere, George tripped over the dog.



# Subordinate Clause



- ☞ Try using a subordinate clause at the beginning of the sentence.
- ☞ Example: After he had brushed his teeth, Will went to bed.
- ☞ Example: Even though Jim knew that Tony had lied, he chose not to reveal the truth.

# Appositive or Appositive Phrase



- ☞ Try using an appositive or appositive phrase.
  - ☞ Example: His mother, the notorious shopper, eyed a black satin halter top.
  - ☞ Example: An overworked teacher, Mrs. Dixon carried home three bags of research papers.

# Inverted Sentence Construction



- Try inverting the sentence order to place the verb before the subject.
- Example: There stood the tallest man that Lester had ever seen.
- Example: Leaning against the locker was the bag of books.

# Synonyms and Kennings



- Try using a synonym or kenning to describe a character or object rather than repeating the name or a pronoun.
- Example: The melancholy old man slumped in the chair.
- Example: Little Miss Tattletale had shared our group's secret plan once again.
- Example: This giver of knowledge advised the prisoner not to vex the warden.

# Vary Sentence Structure



- ☞ Try using all types of sentence structure: simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences.
  - ☞ Example: The little girl laughed.
  - ☞ Example: The little girl laughed, and then she cried.
  - ☞ Example: After the little girl had laughed, she burst into tears.
  - ☞ Example: After the little girl's laughter had died down, she paused, and then she burst into tears.



❧ Variety is the spice of life.  
Create variety in your  
writing.

# Identify Method Used for Variety



☞ Undoubtedly, Babe Didrikson Zaharias was one of the greatest female athletes of the twentieth century.

☞ Adverb

# Identify Method Used for Variety



From 1930 to 1932, she played basketball for the women's All-America team.

Adverb prepositional phrase



# Identify Method Used for Variety



☞ When she wasn't playing ball, she competed in track-and-field events.

☞ Adverb clause

# Identify Method Used for Variety



At the 1932 Olympic Games, she won gold in the 80-meter hurdles and in the javelin throw.

Adverb prepositional phrase

# Identify Method Used for Variety



☞ Competing as a team by herself, she won the team title in the 1932 Women's Amateur Athletic Association.

☞ Participial phrase

# Identify Method Used for Variety



☞ To expand her athletic skills, Babe played baseball, softball, and football; swam; and figure-skated.

☞ Infinitive phrase

# Identify Method Used for Variety



After marrying George Zaharias, Babe took up golf in 1938.

Adverb prepositional phrase  
with gerund

# Identify Method Used for Variety



☞ An amateur golfer, Babe won eighteen golf championships.

☞ Appositive

# Identify Method Used for Variety



☞ Cheering her on were countless fans.

☞ Verb with inverted sentence structure