

Sentence Variety- Style

All sentences have patterns: the simplest begins with a subject followed immediately by a verb...
Bill was... She argues... The building collapsed...

The more variety—the more ways you can say things—the more interesting and impressive your writing will be.

Try writing your own sentences from these models ... and learn the patterns.

1. Subject first
 Frank moved slowly to answer the front door.
2. Begin with a single word modifier (an adj., participle, or adv.)
 [ADJ] Bright red, the sun sank slowly below the ocean's edge.

 [PART] Exhausted, he fell onto the cot and slept for hours.

 [ADV] Swiftly, the river flowed over the rock.
3. Begin with a subordinate clause
 Although she had already seen the movie, she would have seen anything to be with him a few more hours.
4. Begin with a prepositional phrase
 After the story is well under way, the main character shows that he is static.
5. Use a participial phrase
 - a. Begin with a participial phrase.
 Bothered by his constant calling, she soon had her phone number changed.
 - b. End with one.
 He learned against the fence, looking tired and defeated.
 - c. Put one in the middle.
 The young woman, fighting for her freedom, led the march to the White House.
6. Use an appositive phrase
 Mrs. Kinders, the friendliest teacher at TOHS, often works after school with individual students.
7. Use a dash (replaces comma and sometimes semicolon) for abrupt interruption or to add material.
 - a. Frank Thomas- Look, there he is – plays first base for the White Sox.
 - b. Jack Merridew – he was an unattractive, freckled faced boy – soon became the most menacing boy in Lord of the Flies.
8. Use phrase, clauses, and sentence interrupters to vary internal structure.
 He traveled, on the other hand, extensively to the far corners of the world.
9. Use a gerund (“ing” word as noun) as a subject.
 Studying came easy to her.