

Sentence Variety

Types of Sentences:

1. Simple—one independent clause
ex: I'm going home now.
2. Compound—more than one independent clause, joined by a coordinating conjunction or semicolon
ex: I'm going home now, *and* I'll see you later.
I'm going home now; I'll see you later.

Use **coordination** to relate equal ideas.

3. Complex—one independent clause + one dependent clause, joined by a subordinating conjunction
ex: *Because* I'm going home now, I'll see you later.
I'm going home now *because* I'll see you later.

Use **subordination** to emphasize main ideas.

4. Compound-complex—more than one independent + one dependent clause
ex: *Because* I'm going home now, I'll see you later, *and* then we can talk about what we should do this weekend.

Sentence Beginnings

1. introductory **phrase**
prepositional: *On a busy street in Tokyo*, the traveler was lost.
infinitive: *To prove his point*, he turned to the encyclopedia.
participial (verb ending with *-ing* or *-ed* and acting as an adjective):
Waiting for the movie to begin, my friends ate popcorn.
Forced to work late, they ordered pizza with mushrooms.
2. introductory dependent **clause**, or a clause condensed to a phrase
While my clothes were hanging on the line, a dense storm moved in.
While hanging on the line, my clothes were drenched by a dense storm.
3. introductory appositive (a short, descriptive word or group of words)
A skilled thief at the age of ten, I took pride in my daring and expertise.

Sentence Length

Follow a long, complex sentence with a short sentence that packs a punch.
To analyze patterns in your sentence lengths: in 1-2 paragraphs, put a slash mark at the end of each sentence; then, examine sentence variety.