**Sentence Variation Review**

If all your sentences begin with the subject, your writing can become monotonous.

Notice that the sentences in the following paragraph lack variety.

Bees buzz loudly in the meadow. The summer sun shone hot and bright. A breeze rippled the

leaves of the elm tree. A mockingbird was on the highest branch singing a song.

While there is no repetition of words, there is repetition of sentence structure with the ol’ s+v (subject plus verb) format. There are many ways to add variety to sentences. Sometimes you can begin a sentence with an adverb or prepositional phrase, or an –ing or an –ed, just to name a few ways.

Ex: Begin with an adverb

Carefully, the silversmith poured the hot, molten silver into the mold.

Ex: Begin with a prepositional phrase

In the evening, I frequently take my dog for a walk.

Occasionally, you can use inverted word order, placing the verb before the subject.

Ex: Steadily across the high wire stepped the tightrope walker.

Using an adjective clause in the middle of your sentence adds variety too.

Ex: The old sailor, who knew many legends, told us about a hidden treasure.

*Notice the varied beginnings in this revised paragraph:*

In the meadow, bees buzzed loudly. Hot and bright shone the summer sun. Softly, a breeze

rippled the leaves of the old oak tree. A mockingbird, which was perched high in the tree, sang a

melody.

Directions: *Notice that the sentences in the following paragraph lack variety. Add variation so the subjects do not come at the sentence openings.*

Bees buzz loudly in the meadow. The summer sun shone hot and bright. A breeze rippled the

leaves of the elm tree. A mockingbird was on the highest branch singing a song.

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Directions: Please write this sentence with as many sentence openings as you can – YOU **CANNOT** ADD OR SUBTRACT ANY WORDS. YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE AT LEAST FIVE DIFFERENT SENTENCES WITH DIFFERENT OPENINGS BY SIMPLY REARRANGING (see sentence variation Xerox):  
  
He was quickly and happily crossing the street eating a hamburger when the bus came out of nowhere and ran over him.  
  
  
1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Possible Answers:  
1. When the bus came out of nowhere and ran over him, he was quickly and happily crossing the street eating a hamburger.  
  
2. When he was quickly and happily crossing the street eating a hamburger, the bus came out of nowhere and ran over him.  
  
3. Out of nowhere, the bus came and ran over him, when he was quickly and happily crossing the street eating a hamburger.  
  
4. He was happily eating a hamburger and quickly crossing the street, when a bus came out of nowhere and ran over him.  
  
5. A bus came out of nowhere and ran over him when he was quickly and happily crossing the street eating a hamburger.  
  
6. Quickly and happily, he was crossing the street eating a hamburger when the bus came out of nowhere and hit him.