



# Don't forget!

ENG 412/ENG 598

Vary Your Sentence Structure!

Here's 20 (count them!) ways to break the "Subject-Verb-Object Syndrome."

1. Start with an adverb. CAREFULLY he adjusted...
2. Start with a prepositional phrase. IN THE MORNING...
3. Begin with a conjunction. BUT now they...
4. Begin with an adjective. WORSE yet was the fact...
5. Begin with a preposition followed by a gerund. AFTER cleaning up, we...
6. Begin with a present participial phrase. LOOKING OUT THE WINDOW...
7. Put a short sentence in the midst of several long ones.
8. Use a past participial phrase. STUNNED BY THE BLOW, Charles...
9. Start with a verb. HAD he not been a public school teacher, he...
10. Start with a noun clause. WHAT HE DID NOT KNOW was...
11. Begin with a subordinate conjunction. UNTIL SHE DECIDED TO BECOME A NURSE...
12. Begin with an infinitive. TO CARRY on her work...
13. Use an absolute phrase at the end of a sentence. The natives dived from the little boards, their bodies gleaming in the sun.
14. Use a relative clause in the middle of a sentence.
15. Avoid (frequent) use of THERE IS, THERE ARE...
16. Start with a direct object. HIM I do not like.
17. Do not overuse the same kind of sentence structure.
18. Use some direct quotations where it seems to be natural and fitting (and document).
19. Use parallel structure.
20. Vary the form of successive sentences.



## THINK IT OVER!

# Sentence Patterns for Sentence Variety.

## 1) Simple Sentence

*The dog bit the cat. Alfred bought a diamond ring for his lovely wife Thuy.*

## 2) Compound Subject, Compound Verb, or Compound Object, or all three

A compound sentence has two subjects or two verbs or both.

*Jack and Jill ran up the hill.* (compound subject)

*The child skipped and ran home.* (compound verb)

*Jack and Jill skipped and ran down the hill and through the fields.*  
(compound subject, verb, and object)

## 3) Coordinate Sentence or Compound Sentence

A coordinate sentence uses one of the coordinating conjunctions (and, but, or, for, nor, so, yet) and connects two complete simple sentences. Each half of the sentence is equally important to the meaning of the sentence. The coordinating conjunction must be preceded by a comma.

*The chicken got well, so we had salad. Taxes are too high, yet we won't revolt.*  
*I worked late, and I got up early.*

## 4) Expletive

An expletive construction consists of *Athere@* or *Ait@* plus a form of the verb *Abe.@*  
*There was a man from Orlando. It is a good day to study English.*

## 5) Infinitive phrase

An infinitive phrase consists of *ATo@* plus a verb.  
*To go into space was Captain Kirk's Dream.*

## 6) Appositive

An appositive renames a noun in a sentence, usually the subject of the sentence. This helps to make the significance of the noun more clear. An appositive is usually separated from the sentence by a comma.

*A monster-dog, a two-hundred pound German Shepard, stole my lunch.*

## 7) Subordination or Complex Sentence

Subordinate sentences consist of a phrase which begins with a subordinating word and a main clause. The main clause is the important part of the sentence. The subordinate clause is only additional information. There are many varieties of this sentence. A comma separates the dependant clause from the main clause.

*Because the dog bit the cat, I bit the dog. I went to a movie after the universe exploded.*  
*Since I had too much money, I voted for a tax increase.*

## 8) Prepositional Phrase

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with an object.

*Under the car, I found a five dollar bill. Beside the tree, the dog bit the cat.*  
*After the movie, the Universe exploded.*

## 9) Conjunctive Adverb

Two main clauses joined by a conjunctive adverb.

*We saw a Star Trek double feature; hence, we were labeled ATrekkies@ by our coworkers.*