



## Sentence Variation Models

### Begin with the subject.

*Dad was a man with a mission that day.*

### Begin with an article and the subject.

*The car was old and rusty, but my father was determined to get it running.*

### Begin with an adjective and the subject.

*Little wrinkles of worry riddled my anxious forehead as I headed out the door.*

### Begin with an adverb before the subject.

*Abruptly, it began to rain.*

### Begin with a prepositional phrase used as an adverb.

*In the sky, clouds began to form.*

### Begin with a present participial phrase.

*Coming down in buckets, the rain soon saturated the ground.*

### Begin with a past participial phrase.

*Soaked with water, John sloshed through the mud.*

### Begin with an absolute phrase (or more than one).

*His long journey ended, his weary feet aching, his bones icy with the cold, John entered the warm, cozy house.*

### Begin with an infinitive as the subject.

*To relax with a cup of hot tea was Mary's only desire.*

### Begin with a gerund or gerund phrase as the subject.

*Reading a good book is the best thing to do on a cold, rainy day.*

### Begin with an adverbial clause.

*While the roast is cooking, my mother slices the tomatoes for the salad.*

### Postpone the subject.

*There are in all this darkness a few rays of light.*

### Begin with a noun clause.

*That his rocket would never get off the ground was an unbearable thought for the young scientist.*



**Write a sentence in which normally unassociated ideas, words, or phrases are placed next to one another (juxtaposed), thus creating an effect of surprise and wit.**

*The little children were skipping on the lawn: a field of butterflies was dancing in the wind.*

**Write a sentence ending with three parallel elements: words, phrases, or clauses that have the same structure.**

*He loved swimming, dancing, and running. (gerunds)*

*He loved to swim, to dance, and to run. (infinitives)*

*He loved the stentorian roar of the crowd, the tangy smell of the hot dogs, the sharp crack of the bat. (direct objects)*

*He loved baseball because it was slow, because it was rhythmic, because it was played on sunny summer days and misty rainy days and cold, wintry spring mornings. (adverb clauses and an adverb phrase with compound objects of the preposition)*

**Write a sentence in which repetition plays a role.**

*The slow summer days, the silent summer days, the secret summer days slipped by one by one.*

**Ask a rhetorical question.**

*Why should this be?*

**Write a sentence using anadiplosis, the repetition of the last word of one clause at the beginning of the following clause.**

*The town fire chief, who was in charge of the Fourth of July celebration, was famous for his astonishing fireworks; these fireworks, richly colored and brilliant, burst repeatedly in the night sky like fiery rockets exploding in a rain of incandescent, glittering sparkles.*

**Write a sentence using anaphora, the repetition of the same word or group of words at the beginning of successive clauses.**

*We will pursue him into the mountains; we will pursue him into the desert; we will pursue him down valleys and into canyons; we will pursue him to the ends of the earth.*

**Write a sentence using asyndeton, the deliberate omission of conjunctions in a series of related clauses.**

*I saw the mountain; I climbed the mountain; I conquered the mountain.*

**Write a sentence using antimetabole in which the arrangement of ideas in the second clause is a reversal of the first.**

*Am I a philosopher dreaming I'm a butterfly, or a butterfly dreaming I'm a philosopher?*

**Begin with a verb.**

*Rise the sun did on that awful day.*

**Begin with a conjunction.**

*But how could this be?*

**Begin with the object of the verb.**

*That job, no one wanted.*

**Begin with an interjection.**

*Aha – I caught you red-handed.*

**Begin with a transitional word or phrase.**

*In fact, there were no oranges left.*

**Begin with a predicate adjective.**

*Fierce was the storm that night.*

**Begin with a subordinate clause.**

*Although the day was fair and cloudless, he took no pleasure in it.*

**Begin with two or more prepositional phrases.**

*In the castle of the monster with the hideous face, a beautiful princess languished.*

**Create a balanced sentence in which the phrases or clauses balance each other by virtue of their likeness of structure.**

*The monster lurked within the stony citadel; the monster screeched behind the castle walls.*

**Write a periodic sentence in which the sentence base (independent clause) comes last.**

*Surrounded by angry villagers, poked and prodded with sharp pitchforks, frightened by the sharp orders of the guards, weakened by hunger and thirst, the terrified monster cowered in the town square.*

**Write an antithetical sentence that contains two statements which are balanced, but opposite.**

*Great works of art show humankind at its greatest, not at its happiest; they illuminate moments of decision, not moments of ease.*

**Write a sentence in inverted order so that the predicate comes before the subject.**

*In the early winter comes the snow.*

**Write a sentence using ellipsis, the deliberate omission of a word or words are readily implied by the context.**

*The valley was cold because it seldom saw the sun; [it was] damp because [it was] surrounded by mist; [it was] silent, for no birds made their nests there or sang in the twilight.*

*My dreams had no end that night; my delight, [had] no limit.*

**Write a sentence using epanalepsis, the repetition at the end of a clause of the word, or a form of the word, that occurred at the beginning of the clause.**

*Dinner was over, but no one had dined; the argument had taken away everyone's appetite.*

**Write a sentence using polysyndeton, the deliberate use of many conjunctions for special emphasis – to highlight quantity or mass of detail, or to create a flowing, continuous sentence pattern.**

*The meal was amazing – my mother had cooked turkey and dressing and green peas and fruit salad and mashed potatoes smothered with gravy and toasty white rolls with honey and pumpkin pie and hot pecan pie swirled with whipped cream, and no matter how much we ate, the table seemed just as loaded as when we began eating.*