

Improving Sentence Style

VARYING SENTENCE BEGINNINGS

DIRECTIONS Revise each of the following sentences by varying sentence beginnings. Make your corrections in the space between the lines. Use the heading above each set of sentences to guide you.

Example *On Dr. Seuss's birthday,* My little sister's class dressed in costume ~~because they were~~
 honoring Dr. Seuss on his birthday

Single-word Modifier First

1. The runner grabbed the water and drank it quickly.
2. The stuffed bunny looked worn and dingy as it lay on the bed.

Prepositional Phrase First

3. The grass and flowers grow quite well in the backyard.
4. Sometimes my brother and I get bored on long weekends and holidays.

Participial Phrase First

5. The quarterback felt frustrated by the incomplete passes and asked for a timeout.
6. People clapped and cheered and rose to their feet after the performance.

Infinitive Phrase First

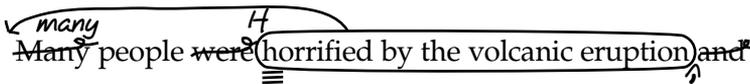
7. You smash avocado and mix it with tomatoes, onion, and seasoning to make guacamole.
8. Simira studies, participates in class, and completes assignments to earn an A.

Adverb Clause Modifier First

9. The shoppers deliberated about their purchases because the makeup shelves displayed a rainbow of nail colors.
10. College applicants request application packages after they identify the colleges they want to attend.

VARYING SENTENCE STRUCTURE AND REDUCING WORDINESS

DIRECTIONS Combine the sentences in each item. You may have to delete, add, or rearrange words. Remember what you have learned about varying sentence beginnings and sentence structures as well as reducing wordiness. Make your corrections in the space between the lines.

Example  Many people were ^Hhorrified by the volcanic eruption and evacuated.

11. You must know where your money goes to balance a budget. You must watch every dollar you spend.
12. If Carlton has picked out the music, it could be challenging. It probably will be.
13. A new movie stages its debut this fine evening at the cinema house in the heart of the city.
14. Our prom will be called "Dancing the Night Away." Our prom will be held at the mall.
15. I am excited about getting my driver's license. I am nervous about getting my driver's license.
I will take the driver's license test tomorrow.
16. A new job provides many experiences for a teenager. A new job provides many responsibilities for a teenager.
17. By means of dropping the atomic bomb, the U.S. defeated Japan. The U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan during World War II.
18. A student can learn to analyze poetry by examining a poem's structure. A student can learn to analyze poetry by examining a poem's content. A student can learn to analyze poetry by examining a poem's diction.
19. Carlos Santana had been participating in the music industry for many years. Santana won eight awards at the 42nd Grammy Awards.
20. Technology begins changing as quickly as it is produced. Technology keeps consumers constantly upgrading their products.

REVISING A PASSAGE

DIRECTIONS Revise the paragraphs below. The parts that need to be improved are underlined. As you revise, remember to vary sentence beginnings and sentence structure and to eliminate wordiness. Make your corrections in the space between the lines.

Example ^{As a child} ~~In the days of his extreme youth,~~ he hid under the covers and read books by flashlight.

Book Look

It happened again last night. The clock chimed 2:00 A.M. Once again I had been reading long past bedtime, but it was worth it! If only everyone could experience the thrill of connecting with a good book.

Sometimes a book is a page-turner. **(21)** Readers get absorbed in the central conflict. They cannot put the book down. They want to find out what will happen next. **(22)** Even young children can experience this kind of excitement when they examine words closely to comprehend what the words are saying.

Often a page-turner will tell the story of a particular character that the reader comes to know as a friend. **(23)** The relationship becomes strong. The reader devours the book in one night. No sooner is the book finished than the reader heads to the library or bookstore, hoping to find another book about that new friend. **(24)** The reader discovers that no other book about the character is available. The reader looks for other books written by the author or for books written about the author. If none can be found, the reader desperately searches for another book in the same genre.

Book lovers constantly gather new information about books and their authors. **(25)** They ask friends what they are reading. They ask family members what they are reading. They seek out the public librarian to find out what is new and what titles they have missed. Avid readers cannot wait until the next time an early morning hour catches them engrossed in a good book.

17. Glutathione occurs in plant tissues^o and glutathione occurs in animal tissues^o. ~~Glutathione~~ helps the body in oxidation-reduction processes.
18. ^{After} Benjamin Franklin helped ^{him} Thomas Paine immigrate to the Colonies. ^{which} Thomas Paine wrote *Common Sense*. ~~Common Sense~~ presented arguments for colonial independence.
19. Susan Feniger ^{and} is a chef. Mary Sue Milliken ^{is a chef}. ~~The chefs~~ prepared spicy food on a television show. ~~They are~~ two of the authors of the cookbook *Mexican Cooking for Dummies*.
20. ^{and} The *Iliad* descended from oral tradition. ^{however} The *Odyssey* descended from oral tradition. Homer is credited with organizing the two stories in the written form known today.

p. 60 | Revising a Passage

Sample answers follow.

21. "I couldn't survive without the help of my baby sitter. ^{who} My baby sitter is practically my right hand."
22. I didn't have to ask my parents for advances. ~~These advances were made on~~ my allowance.
23. I made a lot of money, ^{but} I did not save very much of it.
24. My friends had held jobs at the mall. ^{or} ~~They~~ worked as interns for local businesses.
25. None of us can change the past. ^{however} ~~We~~ can learn from it.

Chapter 12

p. 61 | Varying Sentence Beginnings

Sample answers follow.

1. ^{Quickly} The runner grabbed the water and drank it quickly.
2. The stuffed bunny looked worn and dingy, ~~as it~~ lay on the bed. ^{In the backyard}
3. The grass and flowers grow quite well ~~in~~ the backyard.
4. Sometimes my brother and I get bored on long weekends and holidays.
5. The quarterback felt frustrated by the incomplete passes ~~and~~ asked for a timeout. ^{Clapping and cheering}
6. People clapped and cheered and rose to their feet after the performance. ^{To make guacamole}
7. You smash avocado and mix it with tomatoes, onion, and seasoning ~~to make~~ guacamole. ^{To earn an A}
8. Simira studies, participates in class, and completes assignments ~~to earn an A~~.
9. The shoppers deliberated about their purchases because the makeup shelves displayed a rainbow of nail colors.
10. College applicants request application packages after they identify the colleges they want to attend.

p. 62 | Varying Sentence Structure and Reducing Wordiness

Sample answers follow.

11. ~~You must know where your money goes~~ to balance a budget. You must watch every dollar you spend.

Chapter Tests

12. If Carlton has picked out the music, it ~~could~~^{probably will} be challenging. It ~~probably will be~~^{probably will be}.
13. A new movie ~~stages its debut this fine evening at the cinema house in the heart of the city.~~^{opens tonight at the theater downtown}.
14. ~~Our prom will be~~^{Our prom will be} called "Dancing the Night Away." ~~Our prom will be held at the mall.~~^{Our prom will be held at the mall.}
15. I am ~~excited about getting my driver's license. I am nervous about getting my driver's license. I will take the driver's license test tomorrow.~~^{and excited about getting my driver's license. I am nervous about getting my driver's license. I will take the driver's license test tomorrow.}
16. ~~A new job provides many experiences for a teenager. A new job provides many responsibilities for a teenager.~~^{For a teenager, a new job provides many experiences and for a teenager. A new job provides many responsibilities for a teenager.}
17. By means of dropping the atomic bomb, ~~the U.S. defeated Japan. The U.S. dropped two atomic bombs on Japan during World War II.~~^{to defeat}
18. ~~A student can learn to analyze poetry by examining a poem's structure. A student can learn to analyze poetry by examining a poem's content.~~^{and diction.} A student can learn to analyze poetry by examining a poem's diction.
19. ~~Carlos Santana had been participating in the music industry for many years. Santana won eight awards at the 42nd Grammy Awards.~~^{After} Carlos Santana had been participating in the music industry for many years, ~~Santana~~^{he} won eight awards at the 42nd Grammy Awards.
20. ~~Technology begins changing as quickly as it is produced. Technology keeps consumers constantly upgrading their products.~~^{Technology begins changing as quickly as it is produced. Technology keeps consumers constantly upgrading their products.}

p. 63 | Revising a Passage

Sample answers follow.

21. ~~Readers get~~^{readers} absorbed in the central conflict. ~~They~~^{readers} cannot put the book down.
22. Even young children can experience this kind of excitement when they ~~examine~~^{read} words closely to comprehend what the words are saying.
23. The relationship becomes ~~strong~~^{so} that the reader devours the book in one night.
24. ~~The reader discovers that~~^{If} no other book about the character is available, ~~the reader looks for other books written by the author or for books written about the author.~~^{the reader looks for other books written or about the author.}
25. They ask friends ~~what they are reading.~~^{and family} They ask family members ~~what they are reading.~~^{what they are reading.}

Chapter 13

p. 64 | Understanding Paragraphs and Compositions

1. Students should underline the following sentence as the topic sentence: "Another reason I believe in teen curfews is my concern for teens' safety."
2. Students should circle the following transitional expressions used in Paragraph 1: *Another, For example, when, and, Therefore, and while.*
3. Students should cross out the following sentence that destroys unity: "I do disagree with some of the traditional consequences for violating a curfew, especially those that punish parents rather than teens."