

13

following clauses:

had finished his drink, he left quietly.

and going out more because he felt lonely and needed to meet other

5

ke another ice cream before you ask.

very sad when he left his family.

a book while he was watching TV.

other types of sentences can be reduced. Another frequent example 10

; reduction is the co-ordinated clause. Thus a sentence such as

walk and he could talk at the same time'.

iced to

15

walk and talk at the same time'.

14

; that is reduce, the following paragraph:

20

er

is a man who was unwilling or perhaps unable to socialise with
ple. Before he went out, he always made a big deal out of cov-
nself so that no one would recognise him. He always dressed in
d he always wore a big scarf that partly covered his face. One
day when it was particularly hot he had no choice but to leave
at home. He ventured out and because he was afraid to show his
constantly held his head down. As he walked down the street, he
amiliar voice and he quickly ran into an alley. Peter did not want
n for anything in the world. The voice kept calling him and as he
hat there was no way out, he turned around to respond. His face
t as he realised that the voice came from an old burning flame of

35

In terms of making one's writing capturing, it is often also important to have
a vivid vocabulary.

Preciseness and Variety

From the text below it becomes clear how important preciseness and variety is. 5

N: A Nice Day

I woke up and realised that it was a nice day. I put on my nice new dress
as I was going out with my nice new boyfriend. When he came to pick
me up, I noticed that he was dressed nicely too. He had on a nice pair of
trousers and a nice shirt. He took me to a very nice restaurant in a nice
neighbourhood. After a nice dinner we went out for a nice stroll down the
street. After that we went to a nice bar to meet some of our nice friends.
They had just bought a nice house nearby and invited us over the follow-
ing weekend. Wasn't that nice of them? 15

The repeated use of the adjective 'nice' does not only have a boring effect, it
also give the impression of a very imprecise and vague language: the word
20 nice can be used in such a vast number of contexts and has such a broad
meaning that it almost becomes empty of meaning.

Exercise 15

Replace all the 'nice'- words in the text (N) above with other adjectives to
25 make the text more varied and more precise.

Economy

Economy is also an art that must be achieved at the vocabulary level. Often it
is possible to use one word to describe the same thing that will otherwise be
30 described by two or several words or phrases. Instead of saying

*'That man has a sickly dread of public places or open spaces and he some-
times, but not always, walks around and he doesn't know where he is going,
and he is very afraid that he will get lost. But what he fears the most of all is
35 that he might bump into an other person'.*

one could say more economically