**Exercises for the variation of sentence structures**

Part I

Skill: 1 Restart the sentence by “It is + v.ed”

People agree that the American education system is in deep trouble.

-- It is generally agreed that …

Skill: 2 Restart the sentence by “There is +”

People have recognized of the importance of scientific study of Africa’s wild lands and their ecology.

Skill 3 Replace “if clause” with “a hidden condition”

If you carefully compare the two teaching methods, you will find the former is superior.

Skill 4 Replace “because” with other sentence patterns

Because one can’t know what kind of knowledge will be more useful in the future, so he may not make an intelligent choice in taking school course.

Skill 5 Replace “when” clause with a noun phrase

When our teacher had left, the heated discussion then ended.

**More exercises with various beginnings**:

1. People generally think if a person is “gifted” or “bright” or talented, wonderful ideas will flash spontaneously into his mind. This is a misconception.

2. The majority come to an agreement that we must place increased emphasis on training in math and science.

3 If ones use passive voice frequently, it will deprives the style of that forward movement which occurs.

4 Because many people desire to learn foreign languages, many language schools appear.

Because we are short of time, we have to omit some places of interest.

5 When an old worker sees he is going to retire, he begins to worry about his future.

When there is slight improvement in their children’s studies, parents will feel happy.

**Part II.**

1. Vary structures by using inverted sentences

e.g. Adding to societal changes today is an enormous stockpile of information.

From that science will come the realization that despite technology, man does not exercise dominion over nature.

Less important than ever is developing a meaningful philosophy of life.

2. Vary sentence structures by double negation

a. You can’t lend your marked book to your friends because nobody else can read them without being distracted by your notes.

You will never catch me with a free fifteen minutes in which I’m not reading something.

b. Probably there is not one here who has not in the course of the day had occasion to set in motion a complex train of reasoning.

c. Regardless of where the book came from, I cannot remember a time when I was not in love with them.

3. Vary sentence structures with comparative structure

Like anything, success is a question of timing.

Food is the most emotion-rousing issue, because food is the most basic issue to individual and national survival.

But the ability to sense the market is most critical.

A young man’s first car is not a means of transportation, but a monument to his discovery of youthful freedom

4. Vary sentence structures by using an appositive

Soon I would be on my own, making my own decisions, doing what I wanted without someone looking over my shoulder and it meant going to school with boys, which is a welcome change coming from all-girl high school.

I don’t expect you simply to agree and do nothing more. I expect you add something that may be a reason for agreeing, another example, or a remark to carry the idea further.

Doing part-time job can help us contact with society, (and) this is an alternative way to get knowledge.

5. Vary sentence structures by using **post modifiers**

e.g.

There is an almost infinite variety of magazine available to satisfy the rich variety of interests and tastes.

It takes years of constant academic toil to reach a level of sophistication essential to function effectively in today’s very complex world.

A national economy free of the burden of debt, populated by educated citizens ready to work and to care for their neighbors must be our goal.

6. Vary sentence structures by using **insertions**

e.g.

He (or she) looks at people in a similar way, for the man an attractive girl—and for the woman an attractive man—are the prizes they are after.

At the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of this century, a man had to be aggressive and ambitious—today he has to be social and tolerant—in order to be attractive “package”.

7. Vary sentence structures by using passive voice

Which sentence do you prefer?

1. His mother died, and two months later he lost his and Clementine’s beloved three-year-old daughter, Marigold.
2. However, there are signs that much more serious efforts may be mustered (called together, summoned up) in the reasonably near future.

**Part III Vary sentence length**

1. In the daily life we have noticed many men and women seek something that is neither food, nor clothing, not shelter, something that is totally useless in their environment. They seek personality.
2. And what of love? (short) You cannot hope to find love by experimenting biologically; you don’t build love by creating a living situation designed to test it; you don’t create love by setting up a forced **proximity** (being close/intimate to each other ). (long) Love is. (short)
3. It didn’t occur to me to offer to split the bill. In those days, life was simple. And wonderful men paid. (Cindy Blake)

**Find more examples.**

...

**Look into your problems.**

Please reexamine the sentences you have produced in your essays and try to improve them by varying their structures so that they can better serve their purposes.

Ask yourself what contributes to your difficulties in producing long and complicated sentences.