

SYNTAX

Sentence Structure Considers the Following:

1. sentence length
 - a. telegraphic (<5 words)
 - b. short (about 5 words)
 - c. medium (about 18 words)
 - d. long (30 words +)
2. Beginnings
 - a. Variety?
 - b. Pattern?
3. arrangement of ideas in sentence
4. arrangement of ideas in paragraph
5. Sentence patterns:

a. **Declarative**

i. (assertive): The king is sick.

b. **Imperative**: commands

c. **Interrogative**: asks

d. **Exclamatory**: emphasis

- **Simple sentence:**

- The singer bowed to her adoring audience

- **Compound sentence:**

- The singer bowed to the audience, but she sang no encores.

- **Complex sentence:**

- After she bowed to the audience, the singer sang an encore.

- **Compound-complex sentence:**

- After she bowed to the audience, the singer sang an encore and she acknowledged her adoring fans.

- **Loose sentence:**

- Makes sense if brought to a close before the actual ending:
 - We reached Edmonton/that morning/after a turbulent flight/and some exciting experiences

- **Periodic sentence:**

- Makes sense only when the end of the sentence is reached
 - That morning, after a turbulent flight and some exciting experiences, we reached Edmonton

- **Balanced sentence:**

- Phrases or clauses balance each other in structure, meaning, or length
 - He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside still waters.

- ***Natural order:***

- Constructing a sentence so the subject comes before the predicate
 - Oranges grow in California.

- ***Inverted order:***

- Constructing a sentence so the predicate comes before the subject
 - California grow oranges.

Inverted order reverses normal sentence patterns to create an emphatic or rhythmic effect.

- ***Split order:***

- Constructing a sentence that divides the predicate into two parts with the subject in the middle
 - In California oranges grow.

- **JUXTAPOSITION**

- Poetic & rhetorical device
- Normally unassociated ideas, words, or phrases are placed next to each other
- Creates an effect of surprise and wit
 - The apparition of these faces in the crowd;/Petals on a wet, black bough

Ezra Pound "In a Station of the Metro"

- **PARALLEL STRUCTURE**

- Grammatical or structural similarity between sentences or parts of a sentence
- Arrangement of words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs so elements are
 - of equal importance
 - Equally developed
 - Similarly phrased
 - He was walking, running, and jumping for joy

- **REPETITION**

- Words, sounds, ideas used more than once
- Enhances rhythm
- Creates emphasis
- A device
 - “Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from earth”

- **RHETORICAL QUESTION**

- Expects no answer
- Draws attention to a point
- Generally stronger than a direct statement
 - If Mr. Ferchoff is always fair, as you have said, why did he refuse to listen to Mrs. Baldwin's arguments?

EXAMINE SYNTAX WITH A SINGLE SENTENCE:

Next morning when the first light came into the sky and the sparrows stirred in the trees, when the cows rattled their chains and the rooster crowed and the early automobiles went whispering along the road, Wilbur awoke and looked for Charlotte.

E. B. White

EXAMINE SYNTAX WITH A SINGLE SENTENCE:

Col. Grangerford was very tall and very slim, and had a darkish-paly complexion, not a sign of red in it anywheres; he was clean-shaved every morning all over his thin face, and he had the thinnest kind of lips, and the thinnest kind of nostrils, and a high nose, and heavy eyebrows, and the blackest kind of eyes, sunk so deep back that they seemed like they was looking out of caverns at you, as you may say.

Mark Twain

Examining opening sentence:

She was standing in the middle of the railroad tracks.

What devices can be considered?

- Subjective pronoun ('she') lacks an antecedent
- Sense of curiosity as to who she is
- Use of past progressive tense
- Possibility of danger associated with the living creature standing in the middle of the railway tracks
- Sentence order (natural)
- Function of the declarative sentence