Exercise:
Pair Programming

Preparation

Arrange in pairs.

Setup

- Each pair will write a story, based on "requirements" (see Stories below).
- Activity will be broken into two-minute turns.
- During each turn, one member of the pair will write, while the other will watch and ensure that the constraints are met.
- At the end of each turn, you will switch roles.
- There will be seven turns.
- At the end of the time (all seven turns), your pair will read your story aloud to the rest of the class.

The Stories

- Introduce the setting: work, geography, industry, weather, time of day,...
- Introduce character one: gender, name, age, education, single/married/paired/whatever
- Introduce character two: gender, name, age, education, pet(s), hobbies
- Introduce character one's job
- Conversation between One and Two about a problem at work
- Manager appears and participates in conversation
- All three go out for lunch: where, what kind of food, how do they get there

The Rules

Add these to everything you just learned in the Refactoring exercise.

- No sentences longer than twenty words - shoot for ten or less.
- Character names no more than two syllables.
- No paragraphs longer than five sentences.
- No "he said" and "she said" - must use names.
- No sentence may begin with "So" or "And" or "But".
- Use adjectives judiciously.
- Locale must be a real place.

Gomez Goobers was a happy place to work. GG, as it is known in the industry, is in the heart of Chicago's South Loop. In September, the weather was cooling off and people were walking the streets for pleasure.

GG's lead programmer, Tim Thomas, loved living in Chicago. After college, he met Mary, whom he married two years later. Tim and Mary have been married for three years now. Tim and Mary live in a small, two-bedroom house in a nearby suburb of Chicago.

Tim's counterpart was Billie Bliss, the lead QA. Billie, who is an avid dog lover, lives in town in an apartment overlooking the lake with her Beagle named Bugle. Everyone wonders where Billie got the money to afford a place like that. At twenty-five, she's too young to have accumulated much. Her co-workers speculate, and her family and friends aren't telling.

After completing both a bachelor's and master's degree in computer science, Tim came to work at GG. He loves technology, loves programming, and has progressed rapidly in the year and a half he's been at GG. He has already worked in several programming languages and on several operating systems. These days, he's focused on Ruby on Rails on a Linux platform.

Tim and Billie have been struggling with getting their teams to work together more effectively. Unfortunately, they are plagued by...

Now you...

Decide who is going to write, and who is going to observe for the first turn.