

# Varying Sentence Beginnings

**Learning Target** – I can use a variety of sentences in my writing.

Just how do we start that perfect sentence? It can be a tough decision. Sentence beginnings are like first impressions, and we want to make sure they're right. And while there's no single correct way to start a sentence, we need to vary them to ensure our writing doesn't get stale or boring.

*I went to the store. Anthony went with me. We bought food and drinks. We also got flowers for my mother. The man at the cash register smiled at us and gave us a discount. We returned home and put away the groceries.*

What do all these sentence beginnings have in common? As we can see, each one consists of a **subject** followed by a **verb**. Unfortunately, these simple sentences quickly become boring, decreasing the impact of our writing. Let's see what happens when we **vary** them a bit.

Try some of these ideas.

**Begin your sentence with ...**

## 1. a describing word – an adjective or adverb.

Instead of this (subject- verb)

try this...

The **children crept** carefully up the stairs,.

**I** currently **live** in Austin, Texas.

The **children listened** to the story.

The **moon glowed** brightly in the sky.

Carefully, the children crept up the stairs.

Currently I live in Austin, Texas.

Amused, the children listened to the story.

Bright and shining, the moon glowed in the sky.

Write one of your own. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. -ing verb – running, dancing, dinging, thinking

Instead of this (subject- verb)

try this...

**I was laughing** quietly.

The **girls were sitting** on the bench.

His favorite **hobby was** collecting coins.

Laughing quietly, I watched the game.

Sitting on the bench, the girls ate lunch.

Collecting coins was his favorite hobby.

Write one of your own. \_\_\_\_\_

3. a prepositional phrase – a group of words that go together but do NOT form a sentence

by the door    over the rainbow    near the city    behind the door    beside the window

Instead of this (subject- verb)

try this...

**I left** home without any plan at all.

Without a plan, I left home.

**We found** the ball behind the fence.

Behind the fence, the children found the ball.

Write one of your own. \_\_\_\_\_

4. a clause - a group of words that has a subject and a verb but does not express a complete thought

Words that begin a clause – although, after, as, when, while, unless, before, because, if, since  
AAAWWUBBIS!!

Instead of this - The **train** quickly **disappeared** because it was travelling so fast.

Try this - Because the train was traveling so fast, it quickly disappeared.

Instead of this - **We** won't **be** late if we leave now.

Try this – If we leave now, we won't be late.

Write one of your own. \_\_\_\_\_

5. reverse the sentence – put the end first, and the first, last!

Instead of this - **Billy stayed** home from school, sad about the loss of his grandmother.

Try this - Sad about the loss of his grandmother, **Billy stayed** home from school.

Instead of this - **Tom was** sad and dejected as he walked home from school crying.

Try this – Walking home from school, feeling sad and dejected, **Tom cried**.

Write one of your own. \_\_\_\_\_

