

# Stylistic Techniques Summary Page

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Writing with Structure and Style

## **I. Sentence Openers**

1. Subject
2. Prepositional
3. "ly" (adverbs)
4. "ing" or "ed"
5. Clausal (when, while...)
6. VSS (5 words or less)
7. Other

**Recommended:** Each one in every paragraph and no more than two in a row of any one.

Indicator: # in the margin

## **II. Dress Up** (Within a Sentence)

who/which ... clauses  
strong verbs (dual)  
"ly" words  
quality adjectives (dual)  
because clauses  
when, while, where, since,  
as, if & although clauses

**Minimum Rule:** Two per paragraph

Indicator: Underline

## **III. Decorations**

(Mainly used in Narrative Writing)

- \* Questions (emphasis)
- \* Conversations (limited)
- \* 3 SSS (Short Staccato Sentences)
- \* Dramatic Opening – Closing
- \* Simile - Metaphor
- \* Alliteration
- \* Other Literary Devices

Indicator: in margin "DEC" & \*  
beside decorations within text  
Preference for at least 3 per story

## **IV. Triple Extensions**

(3-of-a-kind consecutive or spaced)

Single words  
Phrase  
Clauses  
Adjectives & Nouns  
(Combinations)  
Verbs  
"ly"

**TRY** for one of each type per story  
Indicator: in margin "TRI" & \*  
beside in text

# SENTENCE OPENERS

## 1. SUBJECT

Mary loved baseball. She played it every recess. The boys and girls chose teams.

## 2. PREPOSITIONAL

Beside the stream, they had a picnic.

Under the fence, the little flowers grew.

## 3. "ly"

Hastily, the firefighter quenched the flames. Finally, the whole story made sense.

## 4. "ing" or "ed"

Desiring to please his mother, the boy tidied the kitchen.

Approving his efforts, she suggested a trip to McDonald's.

Wanted by the police, the thief hid in the alley.

Enlightened by the moving speech, the crowd's applause thundered through the hall.

## 5. CLAUSAL STARTERS: WHEN, WHILE, WHERE, SINCE, AS IF & ALTHOUGH

When Pam reaches 13, she can get contact lenses.

While the men fished, the women picked berries.

Where there is smoke, something must be hot.

Since Greg is the eldest, he can be in charge.

As the sun rose, the wind began to blow.

If the phone rings, please answer it.

Although I prefer cheesecake, I will have an apple.

## 6. VSS (VERY SHORT SENTENCE) 5 words or less.

"Thief"! She yelled angrily.

I am weary.

## 7. OTHER

Because she was ill, Brenda went home from school early.

What are you doing?

**\* EACH SENTENCE OPENER IN EACH PARAGRAPH \* Number to indicate.**

# More on Sentence Openers

As the name suggests, sentence openers always occur at the beginning of a sentence. They are indicated by placing the number of the type of opener in the margin.

## 1. Subject Openers:

- a. are nouns or pronouns
  - b. are used about 60% of the time in writing and more often in speaking.
  - c. tell who or what the sentence is about
- Examples:      (proper noun)      Jenna is in grade 3.  
                         (pronoun)      She slept through the ringing of her alarm.  
                         (noun)      The barn burned to the ground.

## 2. Prepositional Openers:

- a. "To" is a preposition. This is an easy way to remember Number 2 Sentence Opener.
  - b. The word preposition means "pre" position or "placed before".
  - c. Prepositions show a relationship between a noun or pronoun and other words in the sentence.
  - d. Notice "position" in the word preposition. It will help to identify prepositions as they are positions in space or time.
  - e. Prepositional phrases answer the questions : Where? When?
- Examples:    Where      Under the bed, he found a dime  
                         When      During the night, it rained.

**Note: Phrases do not need a verb, clauses do!**

- Examples:    Since Easter, we.... (prepositional phrase...no verb)  
                         Since learning about Easter, we ... (adverbial clause...verb)

## 3. "ly" Openers

- a. Adverbs usually modify verbs, but they may also modify adjectives and other adverbs.  
Examples: Verb      Silently creeping, Sarah tiptoed down the stairs, .  
                         Adverb      Really silently, Sarah tiptoed down the stairs.  
                         Adjective      Early tomorrow morning we will leave.
- b. They answer the questions: where? when? why? how? or how much?  
Examples: How      Quickly, the boy delivered his papers.  
                         When      Lately, Tom has been arriving at school tardy.  
                         How much      Really silently, Sarah tiptoed down the stairs.
- c. Generally most "ly" words are adverbs. However, there are some that are not always adverbs such as lovely or daily. Some are never adverbs such as ally.  
Examples: Adjective      Daily medication is a requirement for Jennifer.  
                         Verb      Ally yourself with your neighbours.
- d. When dealing with dress ups, we included all adverbs in our discussion. For simplicity sake, any non-"ly" adverbs will be considered a #7 or Other opener.

## 4. "ing" or "ed" Openers

- a. "ing" added to a verb creates the present participle.
- b. "ed" added to a verb creates the past participle
- c. "ing" and "ed" openers are part of participial phrases. Although they come from verbs, participial phrases modify the noun or pronoun following them acting like an adjective.  
Examples:      Calling loudly, the children beckoned their dog.  
                         Surprised, Emily dropped her books.
- d. Use a comma to separate participial phrases from the rest of the sentence as seen above.

- e. Alone the phrase is a fragment, whereas the remainder forms a sentence.

## 5. Clausal Openers: When, While, Where, Since, As, If, Although

- These words, called clausal openers, begin adverbial clauses.
- Clausal openers should be followed by a comma.

Examples: When she arrived late, she received a detention.  
While kayaking, Trevor fell overboard and lost his flashlight.  
Where is everyone, wondered the teacher?  
Since it was the last day, the teacher allowed the students to leave early.  
As we dashed off to the party, Mom kissed us good-bye on the cheek.  
If you don't finish in class, this assignment is for homework  
Although we diligently studied for the test, we were still nervous.

## 6. VSS (Very Short Sentence)

- No more than 5 words long.
- This may be used for emphasis in a dramatic opener and closer (see decorations).
- A VSS is effective when you have used a number of longer complex sentences in a row previously.

Examples:      The city lay in ruin.  
                     No one survived.

## 7. Other

- a. Non 'ly" adverb openers
- b. Any word that does not fall under any other category.

Examples:	Non-ly adverb	Very naughty children are punished.
	Other	Because he lost the race, Billy cried.

## A List of Prepositions

<b>aboard</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>out</b>
<b>about</b>	<b>despite</b>	<b>outside</b>
<b>according to</b>	<b>down</b>	<b>over</b>
<b>across</b>	<b>during</b>	<b>past</b>
<b>after</b>	<b>except</b>	<b>through</b>
<b>against</b>	<b>for</b>	<b>throughout</b>
<b>along</b>	<b>from</b>	<b>to</b>
<b>amid</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>toward</b>
<b>among</b>	<b>inside</b>	<b>towards</b>
<b>around</b>	<b>instead</b>	<b>under</b>
<b>aside from</b>	<b>into</b>	<b>underneath</b>
<b>at</b>	<b>like</b>	<b>unlike</b>
<b>before</b>	<b>minus</b>	<b>until</b>
<b>behind</b>	<b>near</b>	<b>up</b>
<b>below</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>upon</b>
<b>beneath</b>	<b>off</b>	<b>with</b>
<b>beside</b>	<b>on</b>	<b>within</b>
<b>between</b>	<b>opposite</b>	<b>without</b>
<b>beyond</b>	<b>onto</b>	

## LY Adverbs

<b>absolutely</b>	<b>dearly</b>	<b>fundamentally</b>
<b>actually</b>	<b>deceivingly</b>	<b>furiously</b>
<b>anxiously</b>	<b>delightfully</b>	<b>generally</b>
<b>arrogantly</b>	<b>diligently</b>	<b>generously</b>
<b>assuredly</b>	<b>distinctly</b>	<b>gently</b>
<b>badly</b>	<b>dreamily</b>	<b>ghastly</b>
<b>bashfully</b>	<b>eagerly</b>	<b>ghostly</b>
<b>beautifully</b>	<b>enormously</b>	<b>gradually</b>
<b>bravely</b>	<b>entirely</b>	<b>gratefully</b>
<b>brightly</b>	<b>especially</b>	<b>greatly</b>
<b>briskly</b>	<b>essentially</b>	<b>greedily</b>
<b>broadly</b>	<b>evenly</b>	<b>grievously</b>
<b>calmly</b>	<b>eventually</b>	<b>helpfully</b>
<b>carefully</b>	<b>evidently</b>	<b>helplessly</b>
<b>certainly</b>	<b>exactly</b>	<b>highly</b>
<b>clearly</b>	<b>excitedly</b>	<b>hopefully</b>
<b>closely</b>	<b>extremely</b>	<b>hopelessly</b>
<b>coarsely</b>	<b>fairly</b>	<b>immediately</b>
<b>commonly</b>	<b>famously</b>	<b>increasingly</b>
<b>completely</b>	<b>ferociously</b>	<b>innocently</b>
<b>confidently</b>	<b>finally</b>	<b>instantly</b>
<b>constantly</b>	<b>foolishly</b>	<b>intensely</b>
<b>continually</b>	<b>fortunately</b>	<b>interestingly</b>
<b>correctly</b>	<b>frequently</b>	<b>inwardly</b>
<b>crossly</b>	<b>friendly</b>	<b>kindly</b>
<b>curiously</b>	<b>frightfully</b>	<b>likely</b>

## More LY Adverbs

loudly	rapidly	surprisingly
madly	readily	suspiciously
meaningfully	really	sympathetically
mechanically	reassuringly	tenderly
miserably	regularly	tentatively
mockingly	relatively	terribly
mostly	reluctantly	thankfully
naturally	repeatedly	thoughtfully
nearly	restfully	tightly
neatly	rightfully	tremendously
nicely	rigidly	truly
normally	sadly	undeniably
obviously	safely	usually
openly	scarcely	utterly
patiently	searchingly	vastly
physically	seemingly	viciously
playfully	separately	violently
positively	sharply	virtually
potentially	sheepishly	warmly
powerfully	significantly	wildly
predictably	slowly	willfully
presumably	softly	willingly
primarily	solidly	wisely
probably	steadily	wistfully
proudly	strictly	wonderfully
quickly	suddenly	
quietly	surely	

## Non-LY Adverbs

almost	always	away
close	early	even
far	fast	however
late	less	more
never	not	often
seldom	soon	tomorrow
very	well	yesterday

# DRESS-UPS

## WHO / WHICH CLAUSES (clauses contain verbs)

People and personified animals are WHO; inanimate objects and actual living things are WHICH.

**PEOPLE = WHO      THINGS = WHICH**

Examples:

Sally, **who** was in grade 4, loved to write stories.

(Personification): Humpty Dumpty, **who** was an egg, cracked up at Jack's joke.

The raccoon, **which** has a banded tail, is notorious for cleanliness.

## "LY" (adverb) words

Travelers **hurriedly** boarded the plane.

## BECAUSE

Our picnic was cancelled **because** rain was predicted.

## STRONG/DUAL VERB(s)

Angela **sprinted** and **sprang** over the hurdles.

## QUALITY ADJECTIVE(s)

The **magnificent**, young horse trotted in the paddock.

## WHEN, WHILE, WHERE, SINCE, AS, IF, & ALTHOUGH (clausal)

He was happy **when** dinner was announced.

She did the dishes **while** she talked on the phone.

They found bear tracks **where** the dirt trail began.

It has been a long time **since** we watched a movie.

The children waved **as** the train went by.

I will call **if** I need help.

Don went to the concert **although** he preferred to watch the game.

**\* EACH DRESS-UP POINT IN EVERY PARAGRAPH. \*Underline to indicate.**



## More on Dress Ups

Dress Ups are found within sentences.

They are underlined when editing.

**They must add information to the sentence.**

**BEWARE of cheap dress ups that do not give new information.**

Airplanes, which fly in the air, are fascinating to study. (cheap)

Airplanes, which fly in special formations, are fascinating to view in air shows.

### BECAUSE CLAUSES:

1. add information to the sentence that the reader could not infer.  
(OK) Joe ate supper quickly because he was hungry.  
(Better) Joe ate supper quickly because he had a ball practice.
2. should have a verb within (all clauses have a verb).  
She walked to the school because she **wanted** the exercise
3. can be removed and there is still a complete sentence.  
She walked to the school.
4. followed by a comma, may be used to begin a sentence.  
Because he read his book until midnight, Joe was sleepy in class.

### STRONG VERBS

Whenever suitable, use dual or triple verbs. Refer to the sentence tree below... see how it changes and grows.

Pat jumped the fence.

Pat hurdled the fence.

Pat hurdled and cleared the fence.

Pat leaped, hurdled and cleared the fence.

Pat gracefully leaped, hurdle and cleared the fence in one smooth motion.

### QUALITY ADJECTIVES:

1. create a more specific and vivid picture
2. are the easiest words to use, so choose carefully...

#### Hints:

1. Use a variety, unless you using it as a Triple.
2. "Cheap" dress ups such as good, bad, nice, etc. are not quality adjectives because they are not specific enough.
3. Use your thesaurus!
4. Use dual and triple adjectives when suitable.

### "LY" WORDS (ADVERBS)

1. Adverbs usually modify verbs, but they may also modify adjectives and other adverbs.  
Examples:    Verb                  Sarah silently tiptoed down the stairs.  
                  Adverb                Sarah very silently tiptoed down the stairs.  
                  Adjective            Early tomorrow morning we will leave.
2. They answer the questions: where? when? why? how? or how much?  
Examples:    How                  The boy **quickly** delivered his papers.  
                  When                They **often** play music together.  
                  Where                He went **away** to camp for a week.  
                  How much            He **really** likes to play soccer.
3. Generally most "ly" words are adverbs. However, there are some that are not always adverbs such as lovely or daily. Some are never adverbs such as ally.  
Examples:    Adjective            Sarah is a lovely girl.  
                  Adjective            Devon takes daily medication.  
                  Verb                    Ally yourself with your neighbours.

4. Some adverbs are not “ly” words, but they still fulfill the criteria for an adverb (see #1 & #2). Below is a list of common ones:

almost	always	away	close	early
even	far	fast	late	less
more	never	not	often	seldom
soon	tomorrow	very	well	yesterday

**CAUTION: Some of these words can also be used as adjectives, verbs or nouns. They are only adverbs if they are describing verbs or quantifying adverbs or adjectives.**

Examples:    Adjective      Circle the even numbers.  
                 Noun          At the close of day, he sighed in exhaustion.  
                 Verb          Close the door.

5. When an adverb is modifying an adjective, it will often answer the question WHICH.

Example:      She loved her very first day of classes.

6. Adverbs can also make comparisons.

Examples:      Adding “er” or “est” to adverbs

                    He came home late.

                    He came home later.

                    He came home latest.

                    Adding more and most to adverbs

                    Most carefully, he peeked around the house.

                    He sang more often in the shower.

                    Some adverbs have special forms of comparison

                    He sang well.                      He sang badly.

                    He sang better.                      He sang worse.

                    He sang best.                      He sang worst.

# BANNED WORD LIST

**Banned Word:**

**Alternatives:**

**Banned Word:**

**Alternatives:**

**Banned Word:**

**Alternatives:**

**Banned Word:**

**Alternatives:**

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**Alternatives:**

**Banned Word:**

**Alternatives:**

# DECORATIONS

## QUESTIONS

Where could the jewels be?  
Why would anyone want an old bike?  
Who would have thought old Max was so smart?

## CONVERSATION (Can also include questions and other openers.)

"Will we have homework?" asked Anne. "When is it due?"

## 3 VSS (3 VERY SHORT SENTENCES)

He came. He saw. He conquered.  
She felt hungry. She felt starved. She felt famished.

## DRAMATIC OPENER-CLOSER

OPENER - a dramatic (VSS) sentence before the topic sentence.

CLOSER - a related VSS following the final clincher sentence.

Hungry flames roared. (O)  
The farm lay in ashes. (C)

## SIMILES OR METAPHORS

Simile uses LIKE or AS

Simile: red as a cherry  
ran like the wind  
sparkly as a diamond

Metaphor states something IS

Metaphor: the copper sky  
a cheerful fire  
an icy stare

## ALLITERATION

Two or more words beginning with the same letter(s), consecutive or spaced.  
distantly drumming  
frightened, frozen and fractured

## OTHER LITERARY DEVICES

Here are a few just to get you started; you may have to look them up if you don't know what they are:

Oxymoron, analogy, hyperbole, allusion, onomatopoeia, personification

You may find more.

**\* AT LEAST THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DECORATIONS FOR EACH STORY**

Dec. in margin and \* in the sentence as indicators.

# Triple Extensions

Rule: Once or thrice but never twice.  
Triples are acceptable because they are deliberate.

## Single Word Repetitions:

Fire scorched the prairies. It scorched the fields. Everything in its path lay scorched.

## Phrase and Clausal Repetitions:

The trail riders were cautioned to stay on the path, to follow in single file, and to refrain from loud noises.

Autumn is a fabulous time in the woods, when the leaves are changing colour, when they fall creating a golden carpet and when they crunch underfoot as you walk.

## Repeating "ing's":

After washing, curling and combing her hair, she was ready for the day.

Note-making, outlining and summarizing are important writing skills.

## Repeating "ly's":

He laughed heartily, walked jauntily and departed hastily.

The bells were ringing merrily the minister was proclaiming definitely and the couple was smiling happily at each other. (both "ing"s and "ly"s used)

## Repeating Adjectives and Nouns:

Colourful paper, curly ribbons and transparent tape make gift-wrapping fun.

The Tuesday special at Joe's Bistro includes homemade pasta noodles, fresh wholegrain rolls and hearty meat sauce.

## Repeating Verbs:

Peeling, chopping and frying onions is not my idea of a great career.

They packed, cleaned and moved in two days.

\* ONE TRIPLE OF EACH KIND IN EVERY STORY IF POSSIBLE.

Use Tri. in margin and \* in sentence as indicators.