

Sentence Types

Use this hand-out to add sentence variety to your writing. Examples of each sentence type are taken from “7th Grade” by Gary Soto and “Names/Nombres” by Julia Alvarez.

1. DOUBLE ADJECTIVE= has 2 adjectives in a row to help “paint a picture” in the reader’s mind.

EX: A **tinny, three-beat** bell propelled students to their homerooms.

EX: My mother was embarrassed among the Sallys and Janes and Georges and Johns to reveal the **rich, noisy** name of Mauricia, so when her turn came to brag, she gave her baby’s name as Maureen.

2. APPOSITIVE= has a noun placed next to another noun to identify it or add information about it.

EX: He ran into his **friend, Michael Torres**, by the water fountain that never turned off.

EX: And her **daughter, Aida Margarita**, who was adopted, *una hija de crianza*.

3. RELATIVE PRONOUN= starts with a pronoun and has a description of who, which, or whose.

EX: Victor scraped his plate and left Michael, **who was busy scowling at a girl two tables away**.

EX: There was my Tia Josefina, **who was not really an aunt but a much older cousin**.

4. ADVERBIAL CLAUSE= starts with the subordinating conjunction of the sentence.

EX: **When the bell sounded**, Teresa looked up, and their eyes met.

EX: **By the time I was in high school**, I was a popular kid, and it showed in my name.

5. PARTICIPLE= starts with a verb ending in -ing.

EX: **Picking** grapes was like living in Siberia, except hot and more boring.

EX: **Introducing** them to my friends was a further trial to me.

6. PREPOSITION= starts with a preposition or prepositional phrase.

EX: **On** the way to his homeroom, Victor tried a scowl.

EX: **After** the delivery, Mami and some other new mothers were cooing over their new baby sons and daughters and exchanging names and weights and delivery stories.

7. INFINITIVE= starts with “To” and a verb.

Note: Neither story had an infinitive examples so here are original examples.

EX: **To escape** the embarrassment of speaking fake French, Victor buried his head in his hands.

EX: **To mispronounce** *Elbures* was a shame!

8. **ADVERB**= starts with an adverb (adjective + “ly”).

EX: **Ironically**, although she had the most foreign-sounding name, she and I were the Americans in the family.

ADVANCED (other than ./!/?) PUNCTUATION MARKS

Use this section to add variety to your punctuation marks. This will give your writing more style and help emphasize certain ideas. Examples are taken from the story “Names/Nombres” by Julia Alvarez.

1. **COLONS**=used when you want to say “here comes an example” or “here’s what I’m talking about.”

EX: **JUDY ALCATRAZ**: the name on the wanted poster would read.

EX: After the commencement ceremony, my family waited outside in the parking lot while my friends and I signed yearbooks with nicknames which recalled our high school good times: “Beans” and “Pepperoni” and “Alcatraz.”

2. **SEMICOLONS**=used instead of a period or comma to relate two sentences. (The semicolon is stronger than a comma but slightly weaker than a period.)

An original example-

EX: My little sister, Ana had the easiest time of all; she was plain *Anne*.

3. **PARENTHESES**=used to set off information that is not really necessary but the writer wants to include for some reason.

EX: My friends rarely had more than their nuclear family to introduce, youthful, glamorous-looking couples (“Mom and Dad”) who skied and played tennis and took their kids for spring vacations to Bermuda.

4. **DASHES**=used to link two parts of a sentence or emphasize “by the way” expressions.

EX: There were many gifts-that was a plus to a large family!

5. **HYPHENS**=used in some compound words or usually separate words that we want to express as one unit.

EX: But how could they listen when they were constantly speaking among themselves in florid-sounding phrases, rococo consonants, rich, rhyming vowels?

6. **Ellipsis**=used to indicate a sentence trailing off or to indicate a long, slow break.

An original example-

EX: I laughed to myself ... wondering which one I would go by.

7. **UNDERLINE** (when hand writing) or **ITALICIZE** (when typing)=used for names of books, magazines, newspapers, movies, operas, plays, and other large works.

8. **QUOTATION MARKS**=for dialogue or songs, poems, magazine articles, newspaper articles, short stories, chapters of books, and other small works.