

Varying Sentence Structure

Start with ING or ED

Start your sentence with a verb that ends in ING or ED.

EXAMPLES OF ING STARTS

Thinking of the time, Julia excused herself and...

Shivering, Leila pulled her coat around her...

Notice how you can avoid repeating the same name or pronoun by starting the sentence with an -ing verb. In the following text, every sentence begins with "I".

I jumped out of the landing boat. I spluttered in the cold water. I dragged myself through the water. I was weighed down by my wet clothes.

By starting with an -ing verb, you can create more variety in your text.

Jumping out of the landing boat, I spluttered in the cold water. Dragging myself through the water, I was weighed down by my wet clothes.

Examples of ED Starts

Overjoyed with his success, Dom called...

Defeated, the Celts withdrew to....

You can also avoid repeating the same name or pronoun by starting your sentence with an -ed verb. Look at how even more variety is created in the text above by using -ing verbs and -ed verbs to start the sentences.

- Jumping out of the landing boat, I spluttered in the cold water.
- Weighed down by my wet clothes, I dragged myself through the water.

Begin your sentence with LY words, or adverbs.

- Quickly, mix the chocolate with the sauce.
- Defiantly, the goths launched an attack on the main gate.
- Slowly, the fox emerged from its lair.
- Inevitably, the truth came out.

Begin your sentence with "There was/were...."

- Anne walked to the bus stop. Jenny was waiting for her.
- Anne walked to the bus stop. There was Jenny, waiting for her

Begin your sentence with some detail about where or when

- Anne walked to the bus stop. Jenny was waiting for her.
- At half past ten, Anne walked to the bus stop, where Jenny was waiting for her.
- The growled fiercely.
- On the corner of the street, the dog growled fiercely.

Begin your sentence with the person or thing that is having the action done to them.

- The teacher praised Sammy.
- Sammy was praised by the teacher.
- Suddenly the lion savaged the antelope.
- Suddenly the antelope was savaged by the lion.