**Tools for Sentence Variety**

1. **Opening Adjective & Opening Adjective Phrase**

Ex. **Powerless**, we witnessed the sacking of our launch. *Planet of the Apes*

Ex. **Numb of all feeling, empty as a shell**, still he clung to life, and the hours droned by. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

1. **Delayed Adjective & Delayed Adjective Phrase**

Ex. People under the helicopter ducked down, **afraid**, as if they were being visited by a plague or a god. *Animal Dreams*

Ex. A dog came bounding among us with a loud volley of barks, and leapt round us, **wild with glee at finding so many human beings together**. “A Hanging”

1. **Opening Adverb and Adverb Phrase**

Ex. **Outside**, I found a taxi for her. *The Heart of a Woman*

Ex. **Then, slowly**, he fell to his knees and pitched forward onto the road, blood pooling red on the black asphalt. *The Moscow Vector*

1. **Delayed Adverb & Adverb Phrase**

Ex. They smiled, **delicately**, like weary children remembering a party. *Cannery Row*

Ex. He worked himself to death, **finally** and **precisely,** at 3:00 a.m. Sunday morning. *Close to Home*

1. **Present Participial Phrase** (Verbal used as an adjective)

Ex. **Clearing his throat loudly**, he stepped out from behind the bookshelves. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

Ex. We stood there, **squeezing each other’s hand to the point of pain**.

1. **Past Participial Phrase** (Verbal used as an adjective)

Ex. Around her waist was a wide pink ribbon, **tied in back with a bow**.

Ex. **Frozen with fear**, but **fascinated,** the kid peered over the tops of the boxes and drums as the sedan screeched in.

1. **Gerund Phrase** (Verbal used as a noun – subject, direct object, object of a preposition)

Ex. **Swimming** is my most beneficial summer activity. (subject)

Ex. James enjoys **swimming**. (direct object)

Ex. You will get good grades **by studying**. (object of a preposition)

1. **Infinitive Phrase** (a verbal that acts as a noun, an adjective, or an adverb)

Ex. **To make it to the final round of the playoffs** was the team’s goal. (noun)

Ex. The coach emphasized the need **to make it to the final round of the playoffs**. (adjective)

Ex. The team from Western High School worked overtime **to make it** **to the final playoffs**. (adverb)

1. **Prepositional Phrase** (contains a preposition and an object (noun) of a preposition) (Act as adjectives or adverbs)

Ex. **In the beginning**, God created the heaven and the earth. *The Bible*

Ex. The angry man chased Mikey and me **around the yellow house** and **up a backyard path**, **under a low tree**, **up a bank**, **through a hedge**, **down some snowy steps**, and **across the grocery store’s delivery driveway**. *An American Childhood*

1. **Appositive Phrase** (Noun phrase that modifies a person, place, or thing. Answers “Who is s/he? Who are they? What is it? What are they?”)

Ex. **A shy observer**, she hesitated on the outskirts of the spirited group.

Ex. Harry was small and tough, **a boy going through life with his chin stuck out a mile**. *Hearts in Atlantis*

**A bald, slight man**, he reminded me of a baby bird. *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*

1. **Absolute Phrase** (Each one of these would be a sentence if the word “was” or “were” were added to the phrase. It has a subject and an incomplete predicate, zooms in for a close-up of the subject and can combine some of the previous ten phrases listed)

Ex. Together we carried the couch up the stairs, **my father *bearing* most of the weight**. (noun “father” combined with present participial phrase “bearing…”)

Ex. The athlete easily won, **her mind *focused* on the trophy at the winner’s table**. (subject “mind” combined with past participial phrase “focused…”)

Ex. The old building was ready to be torn down, **its loose bricks *a safety hazard* to the whole neighborhood**. (noun “bricks” combined with an appositive “a safety hazard”)

Ex. I took a picture of the salty old fisherman, **a shiny yellow rain hat *on his head*** and **an unlit pipe *in his mouth***. (noun “hat” combined with prepositional phrase “on his head” and noun “pipe” combined with prepositional phrase “in his mouth.”

Ex. He worked on the model airplane skillfully, **his hands *steady*** as he handled the delicate balsa wood. (noun “hands” combined with adjective “steady”)

Ex. She raised her head to see who I was, **her face like a pale mask** beneath the brim of her hat. (noun “face” combined with comparison “like a pale mask.”)

1. **Adjective Clause/Relative Clause** (a clause that modifies like an adjective in a sentence and begins with relative pronouns like *who, whom, whose, which, that, whoever, whosever, whomever, whichever*)

Ex. Robert Frost, ***who* is well known for his New England poems**, was actually born in San Francisco.

Ex. Our new puppy introduced us to several neighbors ***whom* we had never met before**.

Ex. Last year I had a teacher ***whose* hobby was hang gliding**.

Ex. The good news is we are under a Constitution, ***which* allows us freedoms**.

Ex. Some of the information ***that* we found** on the Internet could not be trusted.

1. **Noun Clause** (a clause that acts like a noun and is not easily removed, often begins with *that*, *what, when,* or *how*)

Ex. Mr. Jameson discussed ***when* George Washington was born**. (direct object)

Ex. ***When* George Washington was born** was a question on the quiz. (subject)

Ex. The discussion was *about* ***when* George Washington was born**. (object of preposition)

Ex. I forgot ***that* the quiz was today**. (direct object)

Ex. ***What* to wear** is as important as being on time for an interview. (subject)

Ex. The health teacher talked *about* ***how* to sterilize our hands**. (object of preposition)

1. **Adverb Clause** (a clause that modifies like an adverb, often beginning with a subordinate conjunction such as *after, as, before, once, since, till, until, when, whenever, while, as if, as though, because, in order that, lest, so that, although, even if, even though, if, in case, provided that, though, unless, whereas*, etc.)

Ex. ***Because* I forgot to set my alarm**, I missed the bus. (Use a comma if first)

Ex. I missed the bus ***because* I forgot to set my alarm**. (No comma needed if after an independent clause)

Ex. ***Before* you go to school**, feed the dog. Feed the dog ***before* you go to school**.

Ex. ***Although* he is handsome**, I don’t like him. I don’t like him ***although* he is handsome**.

Ex. ***If* you are ready**, we can go out. We can go out ***if* you are ready**.

Ex. ***Since* spring break**, I have been lazy. I have been lazy ***since* spring break**.