

## Spiced Up Sentences

Sentences that are too much alike sound boring after awhile. Experimenting with different ways to construct sentences allows you to add interest and a variety of rhythms to your writing. Look at the examples of different types of sentence construction:

Subject First:

- **Helen Keller** overcame many challenging obstacles in her life.

Adjectives First:

**Brave, thoughtful,** and **motivated,** Helen Keller has inspired many people throughout the world.

Adverbs First:

**Patiently, sternly,** Anne Sullivan taught Helen Keller to communicate with the world through the use of sign language.

Appositives:

Mt. Rushmore, **a large stone monument in South Dakota,** has the faces of four presidents on it. OR

**A large stone monument in South Dakota,** Mt. Rushmore has the faces of four presidents on it.

An appositive is a word or phrase that identifies a noun or gives additional information about a noun.

Gerund Phrase:

**Walking** on the beach is painful if large seashells wash up on shore.  
(Walking on the beach = gerund phrase, *walking* is the subject of the verb is.)

Participial phrases:

**Glazed with a honey barbeque sauce,** the baked chicken was delicious.  
(Glazed modifies the noun chicken.)

Prepositional phrases:

**In the crumb-filled, rumpled sheets,** my sister sleeps. (In = the preposition; the crumb-filled, rumpled = modifiers; sheets = noun.)

**By chewing gum,** we can make sure our ears don't get clogged when the plane takes off. (By = the preposition; chewing = gerund; gum = noun.)

Short Sentence:

**Helen Keller was intelligent.**

Transitional Phrase:

**As Helen Keller defied the odds,** Anne Sullivan stood by her side every step of the way.

Exclamatory:

Anne spelled “w-a-t-e-r” to Helen, and for the very first time, Helen understood!

Interrogative:

How could a deaf and blind woman attend and graduate from college in 1904?

## TYPES OF SENTENCES:

1. **Simple Sentence:** One (subject + predicate)
  - Twenty Freeport citizens protested the ban against smoking.
  
2. **Compound Sentence:** Connects two independent clauses with a comma and a coordinating conjunction F.A.N.B.O.Y.\* (for and nor but or yet so), or with a semi-colon.
  - Helen touched Anne’s mouth when Anne talked, **and** that is how Helen learned to speak when she was ten.
    1. \*Do not begin sentences with FANBOYS!
  
3. **Complex Sentences:** One independent clause and a dependent clause with a subordinating conjunction (after, although, as, because, before, even if, even though, if, in order to/that, once, provided that, rather than, since, so that, than, that, though, unless, until, when, whenever, where, whereas, wherever, whether, while, why)
  - *Although* 20 Freeport citizens protested the smoking ban, the newspaper failed to cover the story. COMMA
  - The newspaper failed to cover the story even though 20 Freeport citizens protested the smoking ban. NO COMMA
  
4. **Compound-Complex Sentences:** Two independent clauses and a dependent clause, so a sentence that has a coordinating conjunction (FANBOYS) and a subordinating conjunction.
  - After realizing the Russians were involved with the election, senators from both parties opened an investigation, but the president wasn’t interested in hearing the results.
    1. If we remove the dependent clause “After realizing the Russians were involved with the election,” we have a compound sentence. The dependent clause makes this sentence compound-complex.
  - The man believed in the system, and he knew that justice would prevail after the murderer was sent to jail.

