

SENTENCE EMBEDDING

Good writers usually vary the structure, rhythm, and texture of their sentences. To improve your stylistic fluency, you can practice imitating the most common grammatical structures, supplying your own content. With practice, sentences like those listed below can become regular features of your style. It's not critical that you know the grammatical terms for each of the modifiers underlined below. But you should, at first, attempt to duplicate their grammatical structure precisely, at least until you've learned the form. Study these examples.

- A. The moon having risen, the tall pines cast dark shadows on the silver snow.
- B. The snow, nearly unblemished in this remote forest, was silent and secret.
- C. The forest, a national wilderness area, was a last retreat from civilization.
- D. On this cold winter night, the least sound would have broken the spell.
- E. The wind, which had blown during the afternoon, honored the perfect stillness.
- F. Even thought seemed impossible because ideas are tumultuous.
- G. Enjoying this moment of eternity, the skier forgot even the fellowship to be found around a crackling fire.

(Winterowd, "Style: Syntactic Fluency")

Practice:

1. Begin by composing sentences of your own that mirror the structures of sentences A-G.
2. Write for more new sentences, each one using two or more modifiers.
3. In your drafts, use some sentences like these to improve rhythm and structure.