

Sentence variety

Make your sentences more **varied**
and more *sophisticated* by using
these four methods.

1. Add a second complete thought (coordination)

*Steven has stopped smoking cigarettes, **but** he is now addicted to chewing gum.*

2. Add a dependent thought (subordination)

***Because I love coffee,** I have a big cup every morning.*

These first two methods shown above **combine two ideas** and show a **particular relationship between the ideas**.

- The first sentence shows a relationship of **contrast** between the ideas of addiction—to smoking and to chewing gum.
- The second sentence shows a relationship of **cause and effect** between liking coffee and drinking it every day.

These last two options are **stylistic**—they give your writing style and interest. You can--

3. Begin with a special opening or phrase (In these examples, I've used participial phrases):

Tired from a long day of work, Susana fell asleep on the sofa.

Using a thick towel, Mel quickly dried his hair.

(Be careful to place the main subject of the sentence—Susana, Mel—right after the comma.)

4. Place adjectives or verbs in a series:

Felicia was **wet, cold, and disgusted** after her terrible boating trip.

The quarterback **fumbled** the ball, **recovered** it, and **sighed** with relief.