

Kick Starting Your Style
Tim Riter

I. Diction

_____Words

Vivid _____s

Short Words

A. D _____

B. C _____

C. S _____

1. A _____

2. C _____

3. A _____

4. Speed and Sound Spectrum

Ī — Ē — Ā — EH — I — AH — Ō — OO — UH
K — T — Q — P — B — D — G — J — F — Z — H — M — N — S — L — R — V — W

Alliteration:

Assonance:

Consonance:

II. Syntax is _____.

Grammar Terms

- A. **Nouns** are people, places, things.
1. Subjects are nouns that do the work.
 2. Direct objects receive the action of the verb.
 3. Indirect objects identify recipient of action.
 4. Predicate nominatives rename the subject.
Follow linking verb. "We will be losers."
 5. Appositives rename the subject and are in between commas.
 6. Object of the preposition ends a prepositional phrase.
- B. **Verbs** express an action (*bring*), an occurrence (*become, happen*), or a state of being (*be, seem*).
- C. **Modifiers** add detail.
Adjectives: describe nouns, pronouns.
Adverbs: describe verbs, adjectives, adverbs.
- D. **Conjunctions** join phrases or clauses or lists
coordinating conjunctions: connect equal, independent clauses or items in a list.
subordinating conjunctions: begin adverbial dependent clauses
- E. **Phrases:** Phrases have only a subject or a verb and are not a complete thought
prepositional phrase: adjective or adverb with preposition and noun
verb phrase, group of verbs working together (We can sleep later).
infinitive phrase: To wait is not a problem.
- F. **Clauses** have both a subject and a verb

dependent clauses: Can function as nouns, adjectives or adverbs. Not a complete thought.

independent clauses: can stand alone.

G. Sentence class

simple sentence: only one independent clause, no independent

compound sentence: at least two independent clauses and no dependent.

Compound/complex sentence: two independent clauses and any number of dependent.

H. Sentence type

declarative: Makes a statement and ends with a period.

exclamatory: Expresses intense or immediate feeling. Ends with an exclamation mark.

interrogative: Asks a question and ends in a question mark.

imperative: Issues a command.

I. R_____ D_____

Anaphora

Epistrophe

Anadiplosis

Asyndeton

Polysyndeton

McKeon Sentence Openers

Writing Analysis

III. Imagery

Using sensory i_____ to reveal c_____ truth

Sound, smell, taste, touch, internal, kinesthetic

IV. Figures

The antonym of “actually” is _____.

A. Hayakawa’s L_____ of A_____.

From Abstract to Less Abstract to A Little Abstract to

A Little Concrete to More Concrete to Most Concrete

B. Types of figures (RDs)

Metaphor

Personification

Metonymy

Symbols

Allegory

Parable

Paradox, Oxymoron

Hyperbole

Understatement

Samples of Bad Analogies

Declaration of Independence

1 When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. (71 words, 1 sentence. Strong cannot.)

2 We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government... (84 wds, 1 sentence, where is anaphora, what effect, how many declarations)

(Analyze anaphora here...some charges are deleted for brevity)

3 The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

MCKEON SHEET --SYNTAX AND SENTENCE BEGINNINGS

- 1 Begin with a subject.
The sea is a whole world unto itself.
- 2 Begin with a prepositional phrase.
In the past, the treasures of the sea were thought to be limitless.
- 3 Begin with an adverb.
Slowly the sea reveals its secret to us.
- 4 Begin with a gerund.
Swimming in the Mediterranean is like bathing in a large turquoise tub.
- 5 Begin with an infinitive phrase.
To protect our future on this earth we must protect ocean life as well.
- 6 Begin with past participle phrase.
Satisfied with the day's catch, the sun-parched fisherman turned his boat toward shore.
7. Begin with a present participle phrase.
Skimming the choppy surface, pelicans search hungrily for their evening meal.
8. Begin with an adverbial clause.
Whenever a man sails away from his homeland, he is inevitably caught by the romance of the sea.
9. Use an appositive.
The Pacific, the largest body of water, touches the shores of six continents.
10. Ask a question.
Who wouldn't want to sail off to a tropical island?
11. Use an exclamation.
Beware the fury of the Atlantic storm!
12. Use conversation.
The captain warned, "All queasy stomachs should stay by the rail."
13. Use a quote.
"The most dangerous storms I've faced were my own," and Hemingway certainly created storms in his life.
14. Use an absolute phrase.
Heart pounding, I cut the sails loose.

WRITING ANALYSIS

Word/Sentence

Total number of words in essay (or one page)_____

Total number of sentences _____

Longest sentence_____

Shortest sentence_____

Average sentence _____

Number of sentences that contain more than 10 words over the average sentence_____

Percentage of sentences that contain more than 10 words over the average_____

Number of sentences that contain 5 more words or more below the average_____

Percentage of sentences that contain 5 words or more below the average_____

Paragraph length

Longest paragraph (in no. of sentences)_____

Shortest paragraph_____

Average paragraph_____

Grammatical Types of Sentences

Simple sentences_____ percentage_____

Compound sentences_____ percentage_____

Complex sentences_____ percentage_____

Compound-complex_____ percentage_____

Sentence Openers

Total number of declarative sentences_____

Starts with a subject _____

Starts with an expletive _____

Starts with a coordinating conjunction _____

Adverb word _____

Prepositional phrase _____

Verbal phrase _____

Adjective phrase _____

Inverted word order _____

Diction

Total number of active verbs _____

Total number of passive verbs _____

Total number of linking verbs _____

Strengths

Goals: