

Sentence Variety and Sentence Patterns

1. Open with an adverb

- *an adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb
- *and adverb answers the questions: How? When? Where? Why? How much?
- *many adverbs end in -ly

Example: Quietly rocking the baby to sleep, the mother sang a lullaby.

2. Open with a prepositional

- *a prepositional phrase describes direction, describes position, tells time, describes means, or shows some abstract relationship
- *a preposition combined with its object forms a prepositional phrase

Example: In record time, Zack won the race.

3. Use apposition

- *appositives extend the meaning of the preceding nouns or pronouns.

Example: My uncle, Mr. James Smith, owns the shoe shop on Main Street.

4. Open with an adjective or and adjective phrase

- *an adjective describes a noun or a pronoun.
- *it tells what kind, what color, how many, which one, whose

Example: Cold and blizzardly, our classroom needs heat.

5. Open with an infinitive

- *an infinitive is a type of verbal (half verb, half something else)
- *infinitives always start with the word "to"

Example: To stroll down a country lane is a great pleasure.

6. Open with a participle

- *a participle is a type of verbal (half verb, half adjective)
- *like a verb, the participle often expresses an action; like an adjective it describes or modifies a noun or pronoun.
- *the present participle is the "-ing" form of the verb

Example: Following his noes, the beagle took off like a jack rabbit.