Using different sentence patterns is essential to add variety to your writing. If your prose is made up entirely of short sentences, the reader will lose interest after a while. Here are a few tips on varying and improving your sentences.

**Try beginning an occasional sentence with an adverb**

By beginning a sentence with an adverb, you can make it stand out from the rest. Note that adverbs sometimes need a comma after them.

- **In the garden**, the children were playing.
- **Wildly**, he rushed into the room.
- **Sometimes** I think I would like to live somewhere else.
- **Usually** I get up early.

Adverbs that can go at the beginning of a sentence include: *usually, normally, often, frequently, sometimes* and *occasionally*.

**Try repeating words**

By repeating a word, extra effect is obtained. Be careful, however, not to do this too often.

- **Nearer and nearer** came the wild dogs.
- **Down and down** sank the boat.

**Improve your sentences with adjectival phrases**

Adjectival phrases add meaning to nouns.

Compare:

A man suddenly made an appearance.

A man **in a black coat** suddenly made an appearance. (This sentence is better than the first sentence because it conveys more.)

The church was bombed during the war.

The church **on the hill** was bombed during the war.