

How to Improve Your Writing

- **Vary your sentence and paragraph openings by starting with:**
 - The subject of the sentence
 - A connective - *after a while, the next day, meanwhile, then, on the other hand, it wasn't long before.*
- **Use different sentence types:**
 - Questions
 - Imperatives
- **Vary sentence length:**
 - Short sentences to build suspense or make things clear;
 - Longer sentences to move the narrative on;
- **Occasionally select the passive voice:**
 - To hide the identity of the subject in a story - *the gun was taken from the cabinet;*
 - For report writing - *the solid was dissolved in the water;*
- **Use different connectives in sentences:**
 - *and, then, but, because, so, also, if, however, rather than, although, despite, while, after;*
- **Use pronouns to avoid repeating names - but make it clear who you are referring to;**
- **Keep to the same tense except in speech;**
- **Keep to the same person; 1st, 2nd or 3rd.**
- **Select interesting and powerful words;**
- **Use punctuation accurately and effectively;**
- **Use the appropriate structure and language features for different genre;**
- **Make sure your writing is balanced; engage the reader quickly; the complicating action should be the longest part; return to place at which the story began;**
- **Use dialogue to carry the story forward;**
- **Use no more than two or three characters;**
- **Do not describe characters appearances and clothes other than to refer to them as part of the action;**
 - *The boy wore a Nike tracksuit and Ellese trainers. His red hair stuck up in tufts around his ears*X
 - *The boy hurtled down the street as fast as his trainers would take him; his red hair flapping in tufts above his ears* ✓

