

Emphasis. Get the reader to *NOTICE!*

One-word Sentence (cannot be sound, interjection, or dialogue)

The thought was there. Pain. That pain did not stop the murder.

One-sentence Paragraph (cannot be dialogue must have emphasis quality)

There was much to do before they left for the camp. There was equipment to gather, food to purchase, and maps to get.

The secret could wait.

Planning would take the majority of the day, and it would involve going to three different stores.

One-word Paragraph (cannot be sound, interjection, or dialogue)

It was a cold night with the blackest of clouds. The kind of night where you know something evil is out there. Where something evil *will* happen. It was on such a night that I met the person who has come to change my life.

William.

I walked down the alley behind the Chinese restaurant, the brick buildings were wet from an early mist that had swept through the city.

Exceptions ... if it “acts” like a [one-word sentence](#), it is. A one-word sentence is grammatically incorrect as it lacks either a subject or verb so if your quasi one-word sentence lacks either a subject or verb, it can “act” like a one-word sentence. For example, “a nightmare” works as one word. ALSO, if your [one-sentence paragraph](#) is too long, it may weaken the effect. [Interjections](#) (Golly, Cool, Hey, OMG) are NOT one-word sentences/one-word paragraphs because they already are emphasis because that is the purpose of an interjection. Dialogue does not usually count as an emphasis since dialogue is often short. However, if a one-word sentence, or other technique, is used within the dialogue, than that works.

Italics

I *hated* everything about writing. I hated the rules, the words. I hated the books. I even hated having to do these things for credit. Sure, I was smart enough to get an A in writing class, but it involved too much work. And let’s face it. I was not interested in working. Not one bit. This is how I ended up in summer school and where I met her. Avril. At first, I was not too hip on having her in my group. She was weird. Weird in a *bad* way. But she changed my life forever.

Italics: thoughts, foreign words, emphasis, character writing a letter or note, sounds

Bold...use it sparingly.

Other: font change, font **size** change, OR underline.

Fragments For Flair—It is all about style.

Gerund (start a sentence with a Verb+ing)

Walking down the street, I saw a dog.
He saw Dylan, pacing back and forth.

Appositive (a phrase, set off by commas, which renames the noun)

My sister, Keera, lives in Tacoma.

Keera, my sister, lives in Tacoma.

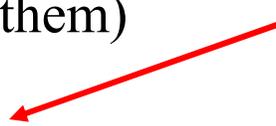
Living in Tacoma is my sister, Keera.

Subordinate Conjunction

(start a sentence with one of twenty-one words)

When you go to the store, buy cereal.

The subordinate conjunctions (all 21 of them)

- | | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. After | 8. If | 15. Until |
| 2. Although | 9. In order that | 16. When |
| 3. As | 10. Since | 17. Whenever |
| 4. As if | 11. So that | 18. Wherever |
| 5. As though | 12. Though | 19. Whether |
| 6. Because | 13. Even though | 20. Where |
| 7. Before | 14. Unless | 21. While |
- 

Comparisons—they are like gold to a writer.

Simile	Metaphor
A comparison	A comparison
Non-literal	Non-literal
Indirect (uses “like” or “as”)	Direct (states it directly)

Simile: It is like an oven in here.

It is as hot as an oven.

Metaphor: The party was a zoo.

This room is an oven.

Not a simile: That cat is like a cat. That dog is like a canine.

It was as if she did not care. I like ice-cream.

Personification: giving “human” or living characteristics to an object.

- The clouds raced across the sky.
- Quietly, the wind whispered in my ear.
- Flames danced across the wall.

Not personification: an object that is actually alive in the story. That is anthropomorphism.

Hyphenated Modifier: A word series connected by hyphens that acts as an adjective (describes a noun)

The class looked at me with that new-kid-in-class stare.

This word series describes the noun after it (like an adjective would). It could have said “mean” stare. Mean is an adjective. So if you can replace the series with an adjective, you have done it correctly.

This is the word being MODIFIED with a HYPHEN series. **NOTICE that there is not a hyphen connecting the WORD to the series.**

Punctuation—if used correctly...is super-cool.

Period at the end of the sentence

Ellipsis . . . or at the end of the sentence

Used for showing that someone is droning on, some piece of the story has been omitted, or to create a dramatic pause.

Hyphen -

Short. Used to connect words together like glue. Words that need to be connected like “twenty-one”, or words that are broken at the end of the line. You can only break at the syllable when you write the other part on the next line.

Dash —

When a dash is used at the end of a sentence, it is the “end punctuation” mark. Do not add the . ? ! This is one of those rare occasions that bends the rule.

Long. Used to show that someone is being cut off in dialogue. “Mick, look out for—” They can also be used for appositives in place of commas, but not normally used as they are less formal.

On a computer (a) Two hyphens is a dash. There is not a DASH key. Your computer will likely convert the hyphens to a dash. If not, type two hyphens and then press enter. (b) To get the quotes to face the correct direction, type a letter after the dash before the quotation mark; it convinces the computer. You can also use the key-stroke-series: Ctrl+” and then Shift+”

(Want something more in punctuation marks? Check out “interrobang.” It is non-standard but can be used.)

Say it once, say it again, and again, and again, and...

These techniques are all very similar in look, but upon closer inspection, you will see a difference (subtle).

Repetition *for* Effect: It is when you repeat the same phrase at least three times. This adds power to the phrase and adds a poetic sound to the writing. (underlined to show only)

I can leave it behind, start my story afresh. I don't need to know why my mother left, or who my father was. I don't need to know, she repeated to herself.

I don't need to know.

Magic Three: Often confused with Repetition for Effect. In Magic Three, you have three different phrases but they are similar in style. (underlined to show only)

While sitting in the woods, I would listen to the leaves rustle, watch the river flow, and feel the sun beat on my head.

Here, the magic three are the words listen, watch, and feel. They are similar because they are verbs and the phrases after them flow like poetry.

Verb Series: When you put a list of actions in a series like a list. When used correctly, it can really add to the speed and action of a story. It is like Magic Three but it is not a phrase and it does not repeat. (underlined to show only)

With the sword stretched out above his head, Jasyn ran with fury, hitting the foes before him, dashing around the traps, and piercing the armor of the captain.

Advanced: Thesaurus Repetition for Effect: It is Repetition for effect, but instead of repeating the same word, you change it each time. (underline to show only)

I hated school, loathed school, despised school in every way.