



De-composing Sentences

Authors create *Sentence Fluency* through variety, using a combination of short, medium, and long sentences. For example:

*The man was exhausted.
He sat down to rest.
He drew in a deep breath.*



The exhausted man sat down to rest and drew in a deep breath.

The three short sentences force the reader to pause frequently, thereby drawing attention to each individual detail. On the other hand, the long combined sentence creates a single detailed image. The author gets to choose which effect best suits their writing.

PART A

Directions: Practice composing longer, detailed sentences by combining these sentences in at least three different ways.

**The room was dark.
The shades were drawn.
A candle was the only light source.
The candle flickered.
A sound could be heard.
It was an eerie sound.**

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

PART B

Directions: Now practice de-composing! Take the long, detailed sentence and break it down into as many short sentences as possible.

In the huge new cemetery, some two miles distant, the old people buried their dead, and came back to a house steeped in shadow and silence.

(taken from "The Monkey's Paw" by W.W Jacobs)
