

21.3 Using a Variety of Sentences (Using Different Sentence Openers and Structures) • Practice 2

Exercise 1 Using Different Sentence Openers. Each of the following sentences can be rewritten with a different opener. Look for a modifier, phrase, or clause that can be placed at the beginning of the sentence.

EXAMPLE: The robins used twigs, string, and newspaper to build their nest.
To build their nest, the robins used twigs, string, and newspaper.

1. We ventured out in the boat when the bay became calm.

2. We can usually count on Maxwell's help in the evenings.

3. The planes soared in formation high above the clouds.
_____ Text
4. One must practice diligently to become proficient on a musical instrument.

5. The board of trustees made painful cuts in services and personnel, although they avoided bankruptcy.

6. The audience stood from the band's first note to its last.

7. The sound of the collision naturally brought people running from their homes.

8. I met with Dr. Chung at exactly 2:30 P.M.

9. Mr. McCauley played basketball while holding one hand behind his back.

10. The truck convoy lost twenty minutes waiting for a slow-moving freight train to pass.

Exercise 2 Revising Sentence Openers. The passage contains a series of sentences that all begin the same way. Find different openers for *most* of the sentences. Then rewrite the passage to produce a smoother, more interesting style.

(1) A sharp knock at the door startled everyone in the room. (2) All heads instantly turned toward the door. (3) They then looked upward to the room where George Washington slept. (4) No one spoke as the knock sounded again and again. (5) Margaret rose at last and walked unsteadily toward the door to face the enemy. (6) A captain of the British Army stood motionless, his face hidden in the darkness of the night, when the door swung open. (7) A small cluster of redcoats stood behind him. (8) The captain strode past Margaret without a word and swept into the room. (9) Four other soldiers followed him. (10) They began to search the house at their officer's command.

