

Devices for Emphasis among Sentences

- Announcement *Finally, last point about the man: he is in trouble.*
Benjamin DeMott
- Balance *Till he had a wife, he could do nothing; and when he had a wife, he did what she chose.* Thomas Babington Macaulay
- Fragment *What do baseball managers really do? Worry. Constantly. For a living.* Leonard Koppett
- Imperative *Insist on yourself; never imitate.* Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Interrupted *And finally, stammering a crude farewell, he departed.*
Thomas Wolfe
- Inverted *And in one corner, book-piled like the rest of the furniture, stood a piano.* Kenneth Grahame
- Wrangles he avoided, and disagreeable persons he usually treated with a cold and freezing contempt.* Douglas Southall Freeman
- Negative-positive restatement *Dickens's descriptions of Fagin's pupils or of any others, are not exaggerations; they are photographic.*
Raymond Postgate
- Periodic *At dead of night in the house which he had bought from the President, Forbes's right-hand man, Cramer, shot himself.* Samuel Hopkins Adams
- Rhetorical question *But envy? Why envy? And hatred? Why hatred?*
Norman Podhoretz
- Rhythm and rhyme *He speaks and thinks plain, broad, downright English.*
William Hazlitt
- For one brief moment the world was nothing but sea—the sight, the sound, the smell, the touch, the taste of sea.* Sheila Kaye-Smith
- Short *As Thompson and the Transcript man had said, Vanzetti was naturally and quietly eloquent—and disturbing. So he was electrocuted.* Phil Strong

Devices for Emphasis within a Sentence

- Adjectives *These moloch gods, these monstrous states . . .*
Suzanne Langer
- Paired adjectives *. . . children are his for a brief and passing season.*
Margaret Mead
- Piled-up adjectives *a willful, clannish, hard-drinking, fornicating tribe.*
William Gibson
- Ellipsis *The nurses in hospitals were especially notorious for immoral conduct; sobriety almost unknown among them.* Lytton Strachey
- Isolation *Children, curled in little balls, slept on straw scattered on wagon beds.* Sherwood Anderson
- Mechanical emphasis *Worse yet, he must accept—how often!—poverty and solitude.* Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Polysyndeton *It is the season of suicide and divorce and prickly dread, whenever the wind blows.* Joan Didion
- Asyndeton *His care, his food, his shelter, his education—all of these were by-products of the parents' position.* Margaret Mead
- Position *So the great gift of symbolism, which is the gift of reason, is at the same time the seat of man's peculiar weakness—the danger of lunacy.* Suzanne Langer
- Tautologia *That's camouflage, that's trickery, that's treachery, window-dressing.* Malcolm X