

# SYNTAX in a SNAP

## The general rules:

Short sentences signify emphatic, passionate, or flippant tones. Also used for action.

Longer sentences suggest deliberation, meditative, or rambling tones

## EFFECTS OF SYNTAX

emphasis	Development of ideas
focus	clarity, simplicity
Tone shift	more depth ( profundity)
Establishes/implies relationships or connections	Creates either more or less abstraction
Reveals character	Establishes/breaks pacing/flow
Establishes tone	Fosters suspense/surprise
Creates rhythm	Adds variety
Organizational	Breaks rhythm/tone/mood

## Elements of Syntax

### 1. Sentence length and varies

- **Staccato:** one to two words in length- abrupt
- **Telegraphic:** shorter than 5 words in length
- **Short:** approximately 5 words in length
- **Medium:** approximately 18 words in length
- **Long and involved:** 30 words or more in length

### 2. Number of sentences per paragraph

### 3. Rhythm of sentences

### 4. Sentence beginnings

Noun/verb/ prepositional phrase,

### 5. Voice

- **Active or passive**

### 6. Rhetorical Devices

- **Rhetorical Questions**
- **Rhetorical fragments:** Used to create tone, voice, establish character, etc
- **Juxtaposition:** Unassociated ideas/words/phrases are placed next to one another

### 7. Word order / arrangement of ideas

- **Loose sentence:** Main point is at the beginning, “front loaded”  
Ex: We reached Minnesota that morning after a turbulent flight and some exciting experiences.
- **Periodic sentence:** Main point at the end, “end loaded”)

Ex: That morning, after a turbulent flight and some exciting experiences, we reached Minnesota.

- **Parallel Structure:** Grammatical or structural similarity between sentences or parts of a sentence.

- **Natural order:** Subject before main verb

Ex: Oranges grow in California.

- **Inverted order:** Verb before subject

Ex: In California grow oranges.

- **Interrupted sentence:** Subordinate clauses come in the middle, set off by dashes or commas

Ex: The disposition of her teachers, stern and disciplined, had made her strong.

- **Split Order Sentence:** Divides the predicate (everything after the subject) into two parts with the subject coming in between.

Ex.: In California oranges grow.

#### **4 Sentence Classifications**

- Declarative: Makes a statement
- Interrogative: Asks a question
- Imperative: Gives a command or request
- Exclamatory: Makes an exclamation

#### **4 Basic Sentence Structures**

1. **Simple sentences:** 1 subject, 1 predicate (main verb); an independent clause  
Ex: The singer bowed to her adoring audience
2. **Compound sentences:** Two or more independent clauses joined with coordinating conjunctions, transitional words/phrases, and semicolons  
Ex :The choir bowed gratefully to the audience; however, they sang no encores.
3. **Complex sentences:** One independent clause and one or more dependent (subordinate) clause.  
Ex: **Although the choir bowed gratefully to the audience, they sang no encores.**
4. **Compound-complex:** Two or more independent clauses and at least one dependent clause  
Ex: The choir bowed gratefully while the audience applauded, but they sang no encores.