

Strunk & White – Chap 2 Part II

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Avoid a succession of loose sentences

- Avoid succession of loose sentences composed of two clauses with the second introduced by a conjunction
- But, also avoid series of sentences that are too compact and periodic
 - Occasional loose sentence prevents the style from becoming too formal and gives the reader a relief
- If you realize you used a series of loose sentences,
 - Recast enough of them to remove monotony
 - Replace some with simple sentences

Express coordinate ideas in similar form

- Principle of parallel construction
 - Expressions similar in content and function should look the same

– E.g. “Formerly, DFM was a recommended practice to increase profits, while now technology is enabled through DFM.”

Timid
Weak

“Formerly, DFM was a recommended practice to increase profits; now it is a must to enable technology.”

Stronger

- Article or preposition applying to multiple members
 - “The Korean, Indian, Taiwanese, and Lebanese”
 - Or “The Korean, the Indian, the Taiwanese, and the Lebanese”

Express coordinate ideas in similar form

- Some words require particular preposition
 - “His speech was marked by disagreement **with** and scorn for his opponent’s position.”
- Correlative expressions should be followed by the same grammatical construction (both, and; not, but; either, or; first, second)
 - “It was both a long talk and very tedious”
“My talk was long and tedious”
 - “A time not for words but action.”
“A time not for words but **for** actions.”
 - “My objections are, first, the unfairness of the comparison with previous works; second, that it is limited to only few test cases.”
“My objections are, first, that the comparison with previous works is unfair; second, that it is limited to only few test cases.”
- For large number of similar ideas, use tables or classify them

Keep related words together

- “He noticed a large stain in the rug that is right in the center”
“He noticed a large stain right in the center of the rug”
- “You can call Tuck in San Diego and tell him all about the professor’s taking us out for dinner for free”
“You can call Tuck in San Diego **for free** and tell him all about the professor’s taking us out for dinner”
- As a rule, the subject and the principal verb should not be separated by a phrase
 - “Liangzhen, if teased, becomes aggressive”
 - “If teased, Liangzhen becomes aggressive”
 - “Abde, in the SPIE paper, suggests reducing the impact of EUV mask defects through smart reticle floorplanning”
 - “In the SPIE paper, Abde suggests reducing the impact of EUV mask defects through smart reticle floorplanning”

Relative pronouns should come immediately after its antecedent

- “John has three papers about gate sizing, which were published in TCAD”
“John has three papers in TCAD about gate sizing”
- If antecedent is a group of words, relatives should come at the end of the group unless this causes ambiguity
 - “The proposal submitted to NSF, which has been variously judged...” (ambiguous)
 - “The proposal, which has been variously judged, submitted to NSF...”
- Modifiers should come next to the words they modify
“All NanoCAD members were not present”
“Not all NanoCAD members were present”
“Tanaya only found two mistakes”, “Tanaya found only two mistakes”

Place emphatic words of a sentence at the end

- “Circuit simulation is considered as the golden experiment because of its accuracy”
- “Because of its accuracy, circuit simulation is considered as the golden experiment”
- The other prominent position is the beginning
 - “Deceit or treachery she could never forgive”
 - “Graduates we are”

In summaries, keep to one tense

- Use the present tense, though you may use the past tense if it seems more natural to do so