

Analyzing SYNTAX

Syntax refers to the way words are arranged within sentences.

SCHEMES

One aspect of syntax is schemes. Most English sentences follow a subject-verb-object pattern (ex. I went to the store.) Deviating from this pattern can serve to add emphasize to the author's ideas.
Sentence Length

LENGTH

Good writers will use a variety for emphasis. Short sentences may imply straightforwardness, for example, while long sentences may be more descriptive, detailed.

TYPES

A third aspect of syntax is sentence type. Again, good writers use a variety.

- *Simple*: subject-verb (I went to the store.)
- *Compound*: 2 independent clauses joined by a conjunction (I went to the store, and I bought candy.)
- *Complex*: independent clause and dependent clause (While traveling to the store, I saw my friend.)
- *Compound-complex*: 2 independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses (While traveling to the store, I saw my friend, and she gave me money for candy.)
- *Declarative*: statement (I went to the store.)
- *Exclamatory*: strong feeling (What a wonderful candy store!) *Interrogative*: question (Is this a store?)
- *Imperative*: command (Go to the store.)

PUNCTUATION

Yes, good writers use a variety here too. Just a few:

- *Semicolon*(;) gives equal weight to two or more independent clauses in a sentence. Writers use this to reinforce parallel ideas and show how both ideas are equally important
- *Colon*(:) directs the reader's attention to the words that follow. Writers use this to show the reader that the information after the colon is important.
- *Dash* (-) marks a sudden change in thought or tone or sets off a brief summary

Words to describe SYNTAX

balanced	complex	compound	compound-complex	declarative
exclamatory	imperative	interrogative	interruption	inversion
juxtaposition	loose/cumulative	parallel	periodic	repetition
simple				