

# Sentences

## If too many sentences start with the same word ....

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If too many sentences start with the same word, especially "The," "It," "This," or "I," writing can grow boring for readers, so changing opening words and phrases can be refreshing and make your writing more interesting. Below are alternative openings for a fairly standard sentence. Notice that different beginnings can alter not only the structure but also the emphasis of the sentence. They may also require rephrasing in sentences before or after this one, meaning that one change could lead to an abundance of sentence variety. You also need to note where the comma is placed in the sentence.

**Example:** *The biggest coincidence that day happened when David and I ended up sitting next to each other at the Bath rugby game.*

### **Possible Revisions:**

- Coincidentally, David and I ended up sitting right next to each other at the rugby match.
- In an amazing coincidence, David and I ended up sitting next to each other at the rugby match.
- When I sat down at the rugby match, I realized that, by sheer coincidence, I was directly next to David.
- By sheer coincidence, I ended up sitting directly next to David at the rugby match.
- With over 10,000 fans at the rugby match, it took an incredible coincidence for me to end up sitting right next to David.
- Without any prior planning, David and I ended up sitting right next to each other at the rugby match.
- Though I hadn't made any advance arrangements with David, we ended up sitting right next to each other at the rugby match.
- Many amazing coincidences occurred that day, but nothing topped sitting right next to David at the rugby match.
- Unbelievable, I know, but David and I ended up sitting right next to each other at the rugby match.
- Guided by some bizarre coincidence, David and I ended up sitting right next to each other at the rugby match.

Can you think of any other ways of starting this sentence?