

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Narrative Writing Assignment

Varying Sentence Beginnings

Revising for Sentence Variety

A sentence gives all or some of the following information: who or what, did what, when, where, why, and how. This information can be arranged in several ways. Sentences that all begin the same way can be monotonous. As you revise your writing, vary the beginnings of your sentences.

PRACTICE

Read the following example. It shows several ways one sentence can be rewritten.

who	where	how	did what	when	why
The survivors	on the raft	desperately	signaled	all day	to attract attention.

why	who	where	how	did what	when
To attract attention,	the survivors	on the raft	desperately	signaled	all day.

when	who	where	did what	how	why
All day,	the survivors	on the raft	signaled	desperately	to attract attention.

Like the example, use the brackets to separate each part of the sentence. Rewrite each of the following sentences, beginning each with the part named in dark type. Use the example above to help you.

1. The swallows carefully carry mud to the bell tower every year to build their nests.

When _____

2. The players loudly shouted encouragement from the bench to spur their teammates to victory in last night's game.

Where _____

3. The speaker fell silent for a moment to gain the attention of some students at the back of the auditorium.

Why _____

4. The children rushed gleefully onto the playground to try the new jungle gym.

How _____

5. The lifeguard furiously blew her whistle at four o'clock to clear the pool.

When _____

6. The pirate jumped off the plank at nighttime to avoid the overtaking of his ship out at sea.

Where _____

7. The monkey at the circus willingly took a banana from the trainer at feeding time because he was hungry.

How _____

8. The baseball team unpleasantly lost the game during the day once the pitcher walked all three batters.

Why _____

9. The bear sneakily stole the food from the campers at the campground during the night.

Where _____

10. The soccer players enthusiastically took off their shirts after the game to celebrate their victory over the defending champs.

When _____
