

# CHOPPY SENTENCES

## Grammar

ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC SUPPORT



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### Choppy Writing

As opposed to sentence fragments, which are grammatically incorrect, successions of short sentences are not technically erroneous. However, an excess of short sentences can lead to choppy writing which can take away from an essay's style.

To improve upon this style of writing, try to combine ideas in the following ways:

#### 1. Combine similarities and differences by coordination:

For sentences containing information that is relatively equal in content, coordination is the best approach.

**Coordinating words:** *and, but, however, etc.*

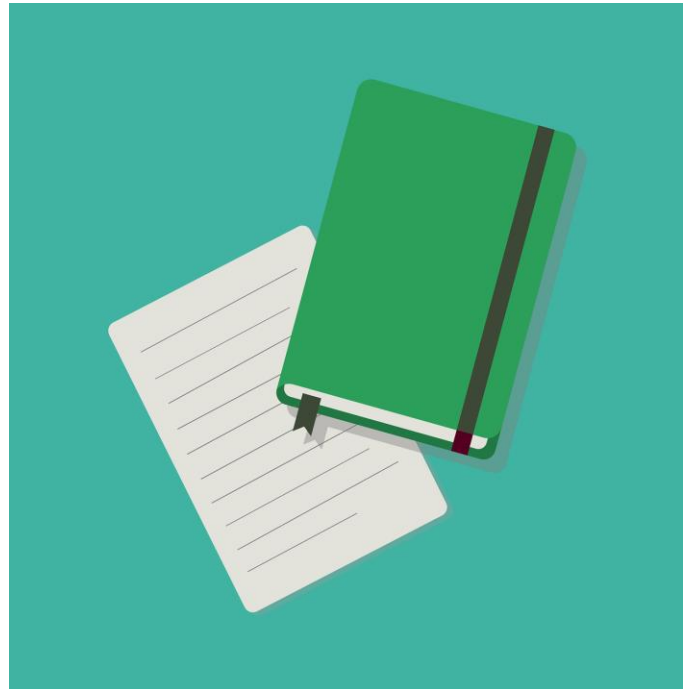
Choppy: Andre De Grasse won two silver medals at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. He won the gold medal in Tokyo in 2020.

Revised: Andre De Grasse won two silver medals at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, **and** he won the gold medal in Tokyo in 2020.

Revised: Andre De Grasse won two silver medals at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games **and** the gold medal in Tokyo in 2016.

Choppy: Today, Shakespeare is one of the most recognized English writers. He was not initially considered an equal to the more educated playwrights of his time.

Revised: Today, Shakespeare is one of the most recognized English writers; **however**, he was not initially considered an equal to the more educated playwrights of his time.



**2. Add secondary information by subordination:**

For sentences that express secondary information, the best approach is to connect them through subordination as dependent clauses.

**Subordinating words:** *who, which, when, where, etc.*

Choppy: Marie Curie was a chemist. She discovered radium.

Revised: Marie Curie was a chemist **who** discovered radium.

Revised; Marie Currie **who** was a chemist discovered radium.

Choppy: The tour group visited the historical site of the battle of Beaumont-Hamel. More than 700 Newfoundlanders lost their lives there.

Revised: The tour group visited the historical site of the battle of Beaumont-Hamel **where** more than 700 Newfoundlanders lost their lives.

**Sources:**

(MLA 8<sup>th</sup> Edition)

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**Contact us**

Writing Centre SN-2053

[writing@mun.ca](mailto:writing@mun.ca)

709-864-3168