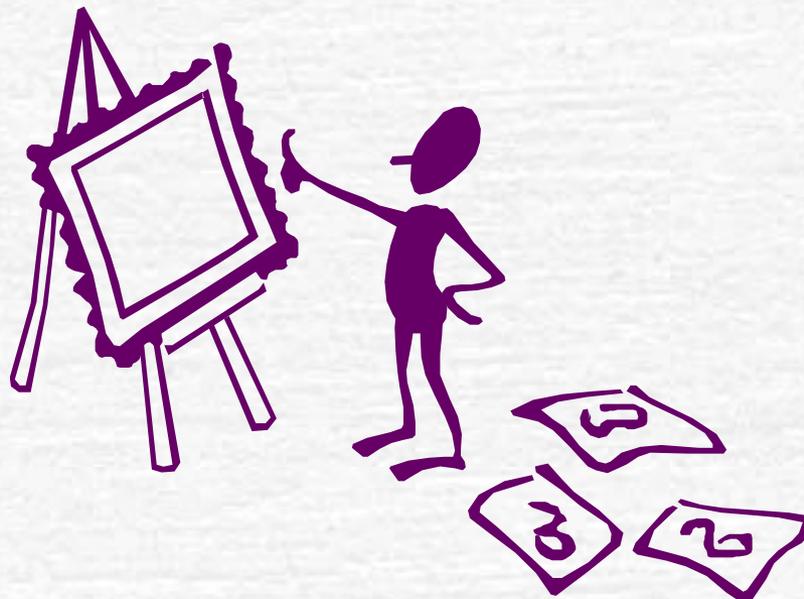


Pattern

GRAMMATICAL STRUCTURES

Five grammatical structures that can add interest and variety to descriptive passages.



**Based on ideas from Harry R. Noden's
*Image Grammar (1999)***

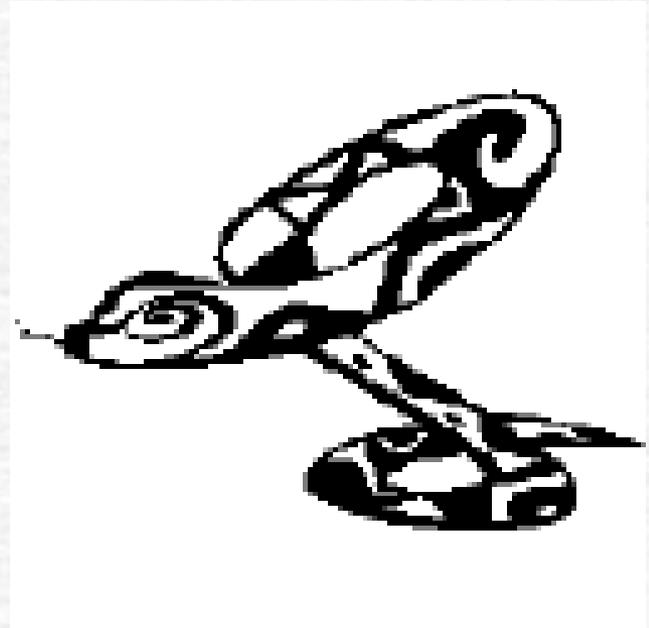
Anna J. Small Roseboro

<http://teachingenglishlanguagearts.com/>

Pattern Participles

“The diamond-scaled
snake attacked its
prey.”

Add three “-*ing*” verbs to
the beginning of the
sentence.





Hissing, slithering, and coiling, the diamond-scaled snake attacked its prey.

You also could add participial phrases:

Hissing its forked red tongue and **coiling its cold body,** the diamond-scaled snake attacked its prey.

Pattern Absolutes

“The cat climbed the tree”.



Add a noun and an “-ing” or “-ed” verb onto a sentence.



Claws digging and feet kicking, the
cat climbed the tree.

OR

The cat, **claws digging and feet
kicking**, climbed the tree .

Pattern Appositives

'The raccoon enjoys eating turtle eggs.'

Add a noun that creates a second image to a preceding noun.





“The raccoon, **a scavenger**, enjoys eating turtle eggs.

OR add a clause

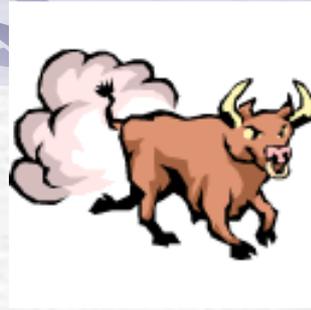
“The raccoon, **a midnight scavenger who roams lake shorelines in search of food**, enjoys eating turtle eggs.

Pattern w/Shifted Adjectives

“The large, angry, red-eyed bull charged the intruder.”

Shift the order of the adjectives.





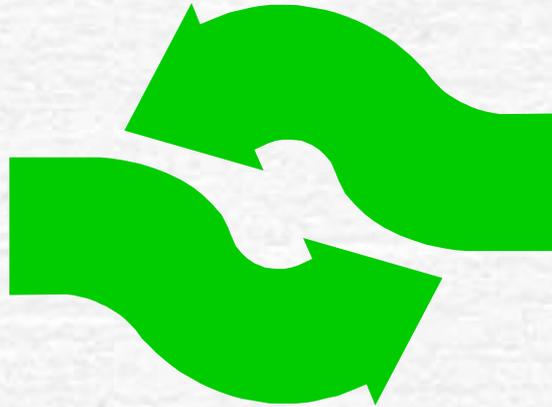
“ “And then, suddenly, in the very dead of the night, there came a sound to my ears, **clear, resonant, and unmistakable.**

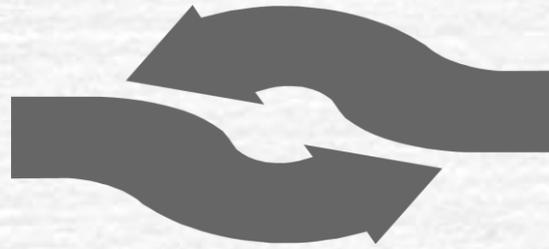
The large bull moose, **red-eyed and angry,** charged the intruder.”

Pattern

Action vs. Passive Verbs

**Substitute action verbs for 'being" verbs" :
is, are, was, were, be, been."**





The runaway horse **was ridden** into town by an old, white whiskered rancher.

or



The grocery store **was robbed** by two armed men.

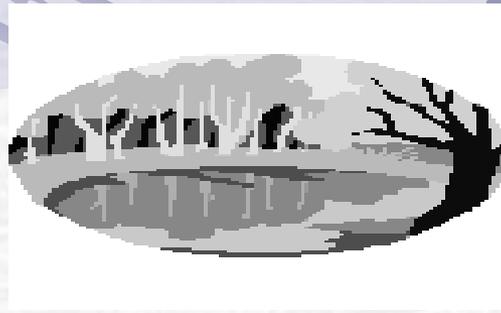


Passive verb:

The gravel road **was** on the left side of the barn.

Action Verb:

The gravel road **curled** around the left side of the barn.



Rockwell **was** a beautiful lake. Canada geese **could be heard** across the water bugling like tuneless trumpets. Near the shore, two children **were hidden** behind a massive maple tree. Watching quietly, they hoped to see the first gosling **being hatched**. Tiny giggles **seemed to be** whispers of excitement.



Rockwell Lake *echoed* with the sounds of Canada geese. Their honking *bugled* across the water like tuneless trumpets. Two children *hid* behind a massive maple tree. They silently *watched*, hoping to see the first gosling *hatch*, while tiny giggles *escaped* their whispers of excitement.

Patterning *WORKS* !



We copy
what we believe
to be good.

