

Part 1:

From the memoir you read for this module, select a paragraph or short passage of at least six sentences that you feel has effective syntax. Complete the inventory chart and write a brief reflection. Use the samples in the lesson to guide you.

“As if it were yesterday I remember the preparations, the departure with my teacher and my mother, the journey, and finally the arrival in Boston. How different this journey was from the one I had made to Baltimore two years before! I was no longer a restless, excitable little creature, requiring the attention of everybody In the train to keep me amused. I sat quietly behind Miss Sullivan, taking in with eager interest all that she told me about what she saw out of the car window: the beautiful Tennessee River, the great cotton-fields, the hills and woods, and the crowds of laughing negroes at the stations, who waved to the people on the train and brought delicious candy and popcorn balls through the car. On the seat opposite me sat my big rag doll, Nancy, in a new gingham dress and a beruffled sunbonnet, looking at me out of two bead eyes. Sometimes, when I was not absorbed in Miss Sullivan’s descriptions, I remembered Nancy’s existence and took her up in my arms, but I generally calmed my conscience by making myself believe that she was asleep.”

A. Inventory Chart

Sentence	Beginnings	Unique Features	Type	Shift
1. <i>“As if it were yesterday I remember the preparations, the departure with my teacher and my mother, the journey, and finally the arrival in Boston.”</i>	As if it were Preposition + pronoun/verb	Parallel structure, creating an overall sense of balance, cohesion, and clarity.	Complex	Medium Sentence
2. <i>“How different this journey was from the one I had made to</i>	How different Adverb + adjective	Nothing that is specifically significant, other than it being simple/concise and being periodic in a sense.	Simple	Short Sentence

Sentence	Beginnings	Unique Features	Type	Shift
<i>Baltimore two years before!"</i>	(continued from above)	(continued from above)	(continued from above)	(continued from above)
3. <i>"I was no longer a restless, excitable little creature, requiring the attention of everybody in the train to keep me amused."</i>	I was Subject + verb	Parallel syntax, balanced structure	Complex	Short Sentence
4. <i>"I sat quietly behind Miss Sullivan, taking in with eager interest all that she told me about what she saw out of the car window: the beautiful Tennessee River, the great cotton-fields, the hills and woods, and the crowds of laughing negroes at the stations, who waved to the people on the train and brought delicious candy and popcorn balls through the car."</i>	I sat Subject + verb	Sentence structure variety, which creates a sense of flow and rhythm Use of colon, which helps to introduce clause in relation to what preceded it	Compound-Complex	Long Sentence
5. <i>"On the seat opposite me sat my big rag doll, Nancy,</i>	On the seat Preposition + modifiers	Use of prepositions to describe location/placement of objects, creating an image of what is going on and where things are	Complex	Medium Sentence

Sentence	Beginnings	Unique Features	Type	Shift
<i>in a new gingham dress and a beruffled sunbonnet, looking at me out of two bead eyes."</i>	(continued from above)	Placement of noun phrases to help describe specific information pertaining to the subject	(continued from above)	(continued from above)
6. <i>"Sometimes, when I was not absorbed in Miss Sullivan's descriptions, I remembered Nancy's existence and took her up in my arms, but I generally calmed my conscience by making myself believe that she was asleep."</i>	Sometimes, when Adverb + conjunction	Starts with adverbial phrase to include context for what is to follow Coordinating conjunction which contrast the details in the main clause versus the details just mentioned; to ultimately provide contrast/balance to the overall structure	Compound-Complex	Long Sentence

B. Reflection

In a paragraph of at least five sentences, describe the sentence variety in the passage you selected and reflect on the choices the author made to create effective syntax. What are the effects of each of those choices? What makes this author's sentence structure particularly effective? If the passage you selected does not demonstrate variety, what is the rhetorical purpose of the writer's choice?

Keller in this instance of her book uses various different sentence types and structures to ensure a smooth flow and rhythm throughout the telling of her story. This flow helps to keep the reader continuing on without getting bored with too much simplicity or lost in over-complexity. She uses a mix of short, medium, and long sentence lengths, paired with the use of simple, complex, and compound-complex sentences to ultimately achieve this. Beyond that, Keller also implements the use of devices such as prepositions, colons, adverbial phrases, and conjunctions to create a well-balanced structure in her sentences, as well as to create connections between her ideas. Overall, Keller does a well job of implementing these resources to invite the reader into the story of her life and to bring them along for the ride.

Part 2:

Select a paragraph or short passage of at least six sentences from an essay that you have written in this course and paste it below.

A. Original paragraph or passage

“They recognize that in the current moment there is tension, and that change is needed in order to be able to move forward. Both have similar goals of uniting their people together during conflict, and have similar approaches to how they accomplish that. However, through the difference of the way they deliver their speeches, they are able to better connect with their specific audience. The important thing to always remember is that we need to work together. No one can go it alone. Even during tough times, we must work together to get through.”

B. Inventory Chart

Sentence	Beginnings	Unique Features	Type	Shift
1. <i>“They recognize that in the current moment there is tension, and that change is needed in order to be able to move forward.”</i>	They recognize Subject + verb	Parallel/balanced structure	Complex	Medium Sentence
2. <i>“Both have similar goals of uniting their people together during conflict, and have similar approaches to how they accomplish that.”</i>	Both have Subject + verb	Parallel/balanced structure	Complex	Long Sentence

Sentence	Beginnings	Unique Features	Type	Shift
3. <i>“However, through the difference of the way they deliver their speeches, they are able to better connect with their specific audience.”</i>	However, through the Adverb + preposition	Periodic structure	Compound-Complex (continued from above)	Long Sentence (continued from above)
4. <i>“The important thing to always remember is that we need to work together.”</i>	The important thing Adjective + noun	Nothing significant, but is straightforward and clear	Simple	Medium Sentence
5. <i>“No one can go it alone.”</i>	No one can Noun + verb	Nothing significant, but is straightforward and clear	Simple	Short Sentence
6. <i>“Even during tough times, we must work together to get through.”</i>	Even during Adverb + preposition	Parallel/balanced structure	Simple	Short Sentence

C. Revision

a. Use your inventory chart to reflect on the following questions:

- **Do your sentences begin with different words and varied structures?**

Yes, my sentences do begin with different words and varied structures. Such examples include *“They recognize...,” “The important thing...,”* and *“Even during tough times...”* My sentence structures are a mix between parallel/balanced and straightforward simple.

- **Do your sentences have any unique features used to achieve particular effects?**

The main feature my sentences use is *parallelism*, along with periodic structures throughout as well. However, I do feel maybe in the paragraph I could have included more specific features.

- Do you have a variety of sentence types and lengths?

My sentences incorporate a mix of short, medium, and long sentences, mixed with simple, complex, and compound-complex sentences.

- Do you have any shifts in structure used to achieve a particular effect?

My shifts in sentence structure go from medium to long, and then eventually from long to short. Ultimately, I do use a various amount of different types. Something maybe I could do is vary them even more, but I feel that I have a good start with it.

*****Any question you answered with a “no” should help you decide which areas may need revision.**

- b. Revise your paragraph to achieve purposeful and varied syntax. If your current paragraph is exquisitely crafted, you can always make improvements and achieve a higher level of sophistication. Consider purposefully altering your sentence beginnings, adding unique features, combining or breaking up sentences to create different types, or creating a shift with a change in sentence length.

They recognize that in the current moment there is tension, and that change is needed in order to be able to move forward. Both have similar goals of uniting their people together during conflict, and have similar approaches to how they accomplish that.

However, through the differences in the way they deliver their speeches, they are able to better connect with their specific audiences. The important thing, in the end, to always remember is that we need to work together. No one can go it alone; we cannot simply do it by ourselves. Even during tough times, we must work together to get through. It is the only way.

*****Include your revision with at least four syntactical revisions highlighted.**