

COMBINE THE SENTENCES

Geese fly south.  
It gets cold in winter.

Geese fly south, and  
it gets cold in winter.

↳ Revise the sentence. Which  
joining word helps show why  
geese fly south?

### 1. Mix up the lengths of your sentences

Write a mix of short and long sentences; it keeps your writing exciting!

**Recommended Quill Activity: Compound-Complex Sentences**

### 2. Use active voice

Remember to put the person who does the action before the action.

**Recommended Quill Activity: Change Sentences from Passive to Active**

### 3. Vary the way you begin sentences

Starting every sentence with the same kind of word every time can be a bit repetitive. Here are some ways to spice up your sentence structures:

*Participial phrases at the beginning of sentences*

*Subordinating conjunctions at the beginning of sentences*

**Recommended Quill Activity: Appositives, Relative Clauses, and Participial Phrases 1**

**Recommended Quill Activity: Subordinating Conjunctions 1**

### 4. Read out loud

When you use **but**, **and**, **so**, or **or** in your writing, read the second part of the sentence out loud. If it is a full sentence, put a comma before the joining word. If the second part isn't a full sentence, don't use a comma.

**Recommended Quill Activity: And, Or, But, So**

### 5. Check your dialogue punctuation (beginning of a sentence)

When the dialogue is at the beginning of the sentence, put the punctuation inside the quotation marks. If the dialogue ends with a question mark or an exclamation mark, include it in the quotation. If the dialogue should end with a period, use a comma instead of a period.

**Recommended Quill Activity: Punctuating Quotation Marks in Dialogue**

### 6. Check your dialogue punctuation (end of a sentence)

When the dialogue is at the end of the sentence, put the punctuation inside the quotation marks. Capitalize the first word of the dialogue. Put a comma before the dialogue starts.

**Recommended Quill Activity: Punctuating Quotation Marks in Dialogue**