

Use of kernels

Types: I. Boys will be boys. II. Jennifer became a doctor. III. Birds sing. IV. The dog bit the postman.

Kernels provide choices

Sam is strange./ Same seems strange./ Sam acts strangely.

Kernels for effect

1. Vary the length of your sentences and create rhythm.
2. To create movement by using different kernel structures in sequences.
3. To create emphasis or drama or surprise.

“Don’t do anything daft, sons,” said one of the uniforms. But they were just words. Nobody was listening. The two teenagers were against the rails now, only ten feet or so from the crashed car. Rebus walked slowly forward, pointing with his finger, making it clear to them that he was going to the car. The impact had caused the trunk to spring open an inch. Rebus carefully lifted it and looked inside.

There was nobody inside.

I’m one for routine. *I like to get on with my job, and then when the day’s work’s over settle down to a paper and a smoke and a bit of music on the wireless, variety or something of the sort and then turn in early. I never had much use for girls. . .*

I could not help it. I burst into a shout of laughter as I looked at George’s wrathful face, I rolled in my chair, I very nearly fell on the floor. George never forgave me. But Tom often asks me to excellent dinner in his charming house in Maryfare, and if he occasionally borrows a trifle from me, that is merely from force of habit.

Kernel ≠ fragment

Badgworthy was in a seventh heaven. A murder! At Chimneys! Inspector Badgworthy in charge of the case. The police have a clue. Sensational arrest. Promotion and kudos for the aforementioned inspector.

The rhythm of kernels: subject-predicate (noun phrase – verb phrase) (left-right)

To be or not to be

Mariposa is not a real town. On the contrary, it is about seventy or eighty of them. . . .

To the careless eye the scene on the Main Street of a summer afternoon is one of deep and unbroken peace. The empty street sleeps in the sunshine. There is a horse and buggy tied to the hitching post in front of Glover’s hardware store. . . .But this quiet is mere appearance. In reality, and to those who know it, the place is a perfect hive of activity.