Supplementary material for exercise 2.9.3.1

These are some examples of texts that require careful phrasing and speaking that reflects punctuation. Like the Esau Wood exercise, they can be given to the actor in all capitals with no punctuation. Then the actor is asked to parse the text to reveal its meaning and to practice speaking it so that a naive listener could understand it when hearing it for the first time.

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JAMES WHILE JOHN HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD A BETTER EFFECT ON THE TEACHER

James, while John had had "had", had had "had had"; "had had" had had a better effect on the teacher.

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DEAR JOHN I WANT A MAN WHO KNOWS WHAT LOVE IS ALL ABOUT YOU ARE GENEROUS KIND AND THOUGHTFUL PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT LIKE YOU ADMIT TO BEING USELESS AND INFERIOR YOU HAVE RUINED ME FOR OTHER MEN I YEARN FOR YOU I HAVE NO FEELINGS WHATSOEVER WHEN WE'RE APART I CAN BE FOREVER HAPPY WILL YOU LET ME BE YOURS GLORIA

Dear John,

I want a man who knows what love is all about. You are generous, kind, and thoughtful. People who are not like you admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me for other men. I yearn for you. I have no feelings whatsoever when we're apart. I can be forever happy. Will you let me be yours?

Gloria

Dear John,

I want a man who knows what love is. All about you are generous, kind, and thoughtful people, who are not like you. Admit to being useless and inferior. You have ruined me. For other men, I yearn; for you, I have no feelings whatsoever. When we're apart, I can be forever happy. Will you let me be?

Yours,

Gloria.

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*From* The Well of Lost Plots *by Jasper Fforde*

“‘Good. Item seven. The had had and that that problem. Lady Cavendish, weren’t you working on this?’

Lady Cavendish stood up and gathered her thoughts. “Indeed, the uses of *had had* and *that that* have to be strictly controlled; they can interrupt the imaginotransference quite dramatically, causing readers to go back over the sentence in confusion, something we try to avoid.”

“Go on.”

“It’s mostly an unlicensed-usage problem. At the last count *David Copperfield* alone had had *had had* sixty-three times, all but ten unapproved. *Pilgrim’s Progress* may also be a problem due to its *had had/that that* ratio.”

“So what’s the problem in *Progress*?”

“That that had *that that* ten times but had had *had had* only thrice. Increased *had had* usage had had to be overlooked, but not if the number exceeds that *that that* usage.”

“Hmm,” said the Bellman, “I thought *had had* had had TGC’s approval for use in Dickens? What’s the problem?”

“Take the first *had had* and *that that* in the book by way of example," explained Lady Cavendish. "You would have thought that that first *had had* had had good occasion to be seen as had, had you not? *Had* had had approval but *had had* had not; equally it is true to say that that *that that* had had approval but that that other *that that* had not.”

“So the problem with that other *that that* was that … ?”

“That that other-other *that that* had had approval.”

“Okay,” said the Bellman, whose head was in danger of falling apart like a chocolate orange, “let me get this straight: *David Copperfield*, unlike *Pilgrim’s Progress*, had had *had*, had had *had had*. Had *had had* had TGC’s approval?”

GOOD ITEM SEVEN THE HAD HAD AND THAT THAT PROBLEM LADY CAVENDISH WEREN’T YOU WORKING ON THIS LADY CAVENDISH STOOD UP AND GATHERED HER THOUGHTS INDEED THE USES OF HAD HAD AND THAT THAT HAVE TO BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED; THEY CAN INTERRUPT THE IMAGINOTRANSFERENCE QUITE DRAMATICALLY CAUSING READERS TO GO BACK OVER THE SENTENCE IN CONFUSION SOMETHING WE TRY TO AVOID GO ON IT’S MOSTLY AN UNLICENSED-USAGE PROBLEM AT THE LAST COUNT DAVID COPPERFIELD ALONE HAD HAD HAD HAD SIXTY-THREE TIMES ALL BUT TEN UNAPPROVED PILGRIM’S PROGRESS MAY ALSO BE A PROBLEM DUE TO ITS HAD HAD/THAT THAT RATIO SO WHAT’S THE PROBLEM IN PROGRESS THAT THAT HAD THAT THAT TEN TIMES BUT HAD HAD HAD HAD ONLY THRICE INCREASED HAD HAD USAGE HAD HAD TO BE OVERLOOKED BUT NOT IF THE NUMBER EXCEEDS THAT THAT THAT USAGE HMM SAID THE BELLMAN I THOUGHT HAD HAD HAD HAD TGC’S APPROVAL FOR USE IN DICKENS WHAT’S THE PROBLEM TAKE THE FIRST HAD HAD AND THAT THAT IN THE BOOK BY WAY OF EXAMPLE EXPLAINED LADY CAVENDISH YOU WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THAT FIRST HAD HAD HAD HAD GOOD OCCASION TO BE SEEN AS HAD HAD YOU NOT HAD HAD HAD APPROVAL BUT HAD HAD HAD NOT; EQUALLY IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT THAT THAT THAT HAD HAD APPROVAL BUT THAT THAT OTHER THAT THAT HAD NOT SO THE PROBLEM WITH THAT OTHER THAT THAT WAS THAT THAT THAT OTHER-OTHER THAT THAT HAD HAD APPROVAL OKAY SAID THE BELLMAN WHOSE HEAD WAS IN DANGER OF FALLING APART LIKE A CHOCOLATE ORANGE LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT DAVID COPPERFIELD UNLIKE PILGRIM’S PROGRESS HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD HAD TGC’S APPROVAL