



Rearranging at the Sentence Level		
Rearranging Words in a Sentence		
The cat played with the ball of yarn gently.	to	The cat gently played with the ball of yarn.
Also, Travis plays basketball.	to	Travis also plays basketball.
Rearranging Phrases in a Sentence		
Writers can take a phrase and move it to the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of the sentence. You might have to rearrange, add, or delete words or punctuation when you do this.		
Phrases that show when	In the meantime, Jeff read a book. Jeff read a book in the meantime.	
Phrases that show where	The parade lasted forever on the TV. The parade on the TV lasted forever.	
Phrases that show action	Whitney was walking the dogs and saw a cat. While walking the dogs, Whitney saw a cat.	
Rearranging Parts of Compound or Complex Sentences		
Rearranging a compound sentence	At recess, I went down the slide, and I played with my friends. I played with my friends, and I went down the slide at recess.	
Rearranging a complex sentence	While Summer played basketball at recess, Josie twirled on the monkey bars. Josie twirled on the monkey bars while Summer played basketball at recess.	

Rearranging at the Paragraph Level

Writers can also look at each of the sentences in a paragraph to ensure they are ordered in a way that makes the most sense. Not sure if your sentences are in the best order? Try one of these ideas out:

Break it up!	Break the sentences in your paragraph apart and look at each one separately. Ask yourself if putting them in another order makes sense. If your original order makes the most sense to you, ask yourself why that is. Imagine you had to defend this order of sentences to a classmate or your teacher. What would you say? Talk yourself through why this order makes the most sense. If you notice moving one or more sentences around sounds better, you have the power to do it!
Find a friend	Get a friend or classmate to look at the sentences in one of your paragraphs separated out into individual sentences. Have them put the sentences back together in the order that makes sense to them. Then, have a discussion about why they chose the order they did. If their order is different from your original, you can either talk to your friend/classmate about why you chose a different order, or you can rearrange your sentences to this new order.