

Word Play 2022

Teaching Grammar: Examples

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Example 1

In which sentence is *your new pup* the subject of the main clause?

- Although *your new pup* is so small, his basket is enormous.
- When I arrived, *your new pup* wagged his tail and licked me.
- Do you think *your new pup* would like one of these treats?
- I would love you to bring *your new pup* over to my place.

Example 2

Don't **gobblefunk** around with words.

'Whenever I is feeling a bit **scrotty**,' the BFG said, 'a few gollops of **frobscottle** is always making me **hopscotch**y again.'

How **whoopsey-splunkers**!

How absolutely **squiffling**!

Example 3

1. I saw a big fluffy Persian cat on the windowsill.
2. I saw a fluffy big Persian cat on the windowsill.

Example 4

'Ignoring isn't the same as ignorance, you have to work at it.'

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*

Example 5 – Passage for analysis

Insanity comes in two basic varieties: slow and fast.

I'm not talking about onset or duration. I mean the quality of the insanity, the day-to-day business of being nuts.

There are a lot of names: depression, catatonia, mania, anxiety, agitation. They don't tell you much.

The predominant quality of the slow form is viscosity.

Experience is thick. Time is slow, dripping slowly through the clogged filter of thickened perception. The body temperature is low. The pulse is sluggish. The immune system is half-asleep. The organism is torpid and brackish. Even the reflexes are diminished, as if the lower leg couldn't be bothered to jerk itself out of its stupor when the knee is tapped.

Viscosity occurs on a cellular level. And so does velocity.

In contrast to viscosity's cellular coma, velocity endows every platelet and muscle fibre with a mind of its own, a means of knowing and commenting on its own behavior. There is too much perception, and beyond the plethora of perceptions, a plethora of thoughts about the perceptions and about the fact of having perceptions...

Viscosity and velocity are opposites, yet they can look the same. Viscosity causes the stillness of disinclination; velocity causes the stillness of fascination. An observer can't tell if a person is silent and still because inner life has stalled or because inner life is transfixingly busy.

Something common to both is repetitive thought. Experiences seem prerecorded, stylized. Particular patterns of thought get attached to particular movements or activities, and before you know it, it's impossible to approach that movement or activity without dislodging an avalanche of prethought thoughts.

A lethargic avalanche of synthetic thought can take days to fall. Part of the mute paralysis of viscosity comes from knowing what's ahead and having to wait for its arrival. Here comes the I'm-no-good thought. That takes care of today.

Kaysen, Susanna. (1993). *Girl, interrupted*. London, UK: Virago Press.

Example 6

Her legs swing complete afternoons away.

Jill Eisenstadt

Example 7

1. Bridge collapses, injuring 48 people
2. 48 people injured in bridge collapse