



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE
INSTITUTE**

Written Communication: Crafting Varied and Impactful Sentences

Course Description

This eight week course investigates the relationship between structure and meaning in written English sentences.

Course Objectives

In this course, students review the fundamentals of English sentence grammar within a cohesive form/function framework and learn to manipulate sentence structure to improve information flow, increase variety, and hone focus.

Student Learning Outcomes

After the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze sentence grammar at three levels: formal, functional, and thematic
2. Recognize verb types and their role in projecting syntactic structure
3. Determine constituency of syntactic structures—that is, the internal hierarchy of clauses and phrases
4. Apply techniques to improve information flow (e.g. managing the position of multiple adjuncts, controlling theme/rheme patterns, managing end weight)
5. Demonstrate their understanding of the above fundamentals by editing their own writing.

Required materials

- Access to Canvas
- Access to Zoom (for cases of quarantine)
- A notebook for new vocabulary, handouts, and class notes

Recommended materials

- Oxford Modern English Grammar by Bas Aarts (ISBN 978-0199533190)
- Grammar Choices for Graduate and Professional Writers by Nigel A. Caplan (ISBN 978-0-472-03501-4)