

# image grammar

Over the past two months, we've learned several new techniques to help your writing blossom from simplistic sentences to multi-layered, rhythmic compositions that help engage your reader. If you can master these skills, your craft will impress teachers, attract readers, and help your voice be heard. Keep in mind that these techniques are like pieces of candy, sweet and appealing when sprinkled into a larger work. Employ them too often, and your writing could come across as a little, uhh, constipated. And no one wants that.

Title	Function	Example
Participle	Uses an ~ing (or ~ed) verb or verb phrase at the beginning or end of a sentence to describe a noun or situation	- <u>Falling in nature's chaotic rhythm</u> , the rain spilled upon the city. - <u>Focusing and straining</u> , Jedi Master Yoda deflected the lightning.
Absolute	Pairs a noun and ~ing verb together to form a describing phrase.	- <u>Boots splashing</u> in the puddles, the kindergarteners trekked off on their field trip. - Flooring the gas pedal, Yvette sped through the rush hour traffic, <u>tires screeching</u> on the coarse concrete.
Appositive	A phrase separated by punctuation that renames the nearest noun.	- A tornado, <u>one of nature's most dangerous phenomena</u> , touched down for the first time in over 50 years in Washington State. - Marshawn Lynch, <u>the Beast</u> , scored two touchdowns last week.
Adjectives out of order	Instead of stacking multiple adjectives before a noun, you leave one adjective before the noun and put the other two after.	- The violent windstorm, <u>fierce and threatening</u> , ripped through the city this weekend, causing people to lose power. - The mountain towered with fierce apathy in the distance, <u>craggy and snow-covered</u> , awaiting the prickle of a brave climbers axe.
Action Verbs	Use action verbs! Eliminate passive voice and reduce the use of being verbs (is, am, are, was, were)	NO: The runaway horse <del>was ridden</del> into town by an old rancher. YES: The old <u>rancher rode</u> the runaway horse into town. NO: New Zealand <del>is</del> a beautiful place to visit. YES: Travelers <u>visit</u> New Zealand for its natural beauty. NO?: Shawna was amazed at the outpouring of support. YES?: The outpouring of support amazed Shawna and her family.