

Choppiness

Teaching English grammar in school is no longer common. Some students learn grammar in French class. They know little formal English grammar.

Dick and Jane get up early. They eat their breakfast. They go out to play. It is a beautiful day.

Writing is called choppy when it consists of a series of short sentences that seem as if they were written for a 1960s school reader.

Solution

Combine the sentences in such a way as to bring out what you think is the most important point.

- *Although some learn grammar in French class, students know little formal English grammar, because teaching grammar in school is no longer common.*
- *Some students learn grammar in French class, but teaching English grammar in school is no longer common; as a result, they know little formal English grammar.*
- *Although teaching grammar in school is no longer common and students know little formal English grammar, some students do learn grammar in French class.*
- *Because it is a beautiful day, Dick and Jane get up early, eat their breakfast, and go out to play.*
- *After getting up early, Dick and Jane eat their breakfast before going out to play on such a beautiful day.*
- *Dick and Jane get up early on a beautiful day, but they eat their breakfast before they go out to play.*

Your enthusiasm for smoothing out sentence flow shouldn't mean that there are never shorter sentences.

- *Students know little formal grammar, because teaching grammar in school is no longer common. Some learn grammar in French class.*
- *Although some learn grammar in French class, teaching English grammar in school is no longer common. As a result, students know little formal English grammar.*