
Writing for Those Just Getting Started_Part II

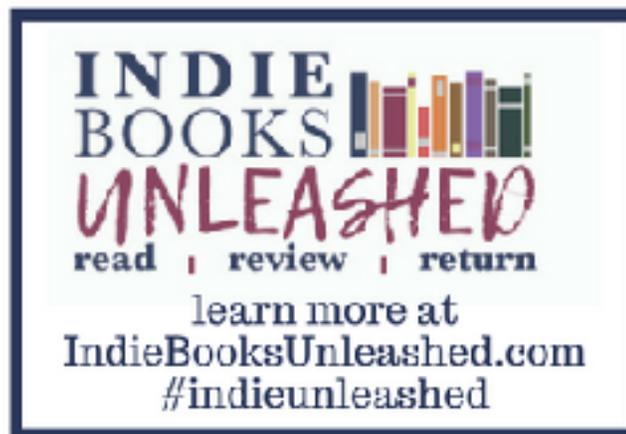
'There's nothing to **writing**. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and **open a vein.**'

—Ernest Hemingway



Writing. It's something you feel inside and something you can't let go. It's the glimmer of a story, the spark of an idea, and the flash of inspiration, all of which give a writer-at-heart the urge to get it all out and create something big. There truly is a story inside everyone.

So, how do you get started? Writing is a business these days, and if you desire some measure of success in your writing, then you should start out right. Follow the steps. Write what you know. And always keep writing!



There are many different types of writing:

- ¥ Poems - 55 forms that all can be found here: [Poem of Quotes.com](http://PoemofQuotes.com)
- ¥ Memoirs - historical account or biography written from personal knowledge or individual/private sources)
- ¥ Flash-fiction & Short story - micro fiction, micro narrative, micro-story, postcard fiction, short story...)
- ¥ Non-fiction - prose writing based on facts, events, and/or people
- ¥ Biographies and Autobiographies - account of someone's life written by someone else or themselves)
- ¥ And... Creative Fiction

Creative Fiction, also known as literary nonfiction or narrative nonfiction, is a genre of writing that uses literary styles and techniques to create factually accurate narratives. In every novel, there are/should be/usually are three acts, like the beginning, middle and end (though not really), with beats and episodes in between each, characters, dialogue, settings, theme, conflict, and of course a plot.

- ♣ Characters struggle against something or someone or both and have a goal in mind.
- ♣ They have a misbelief that guides their actions erroneously and send them down the 'wrong' path.
- ♣ There are people (characters) around him/her who help/hinder them against that goal.
- ♣ And, the characters fight for what they want and hope for... all within a sea of beautiful prose and perfectly pitched dialogue.

The list of “musts” for good creative fiction goes on and on. Suffice to say that a good-to-great novel has all of these characteristics and much more. From memorable characters, to a flowing pace and varying sentence structures, the elements of a novel are great and all are of equal importance. Check out [Writers' Treasure.com](http://Writers'Treasure.com) for more great info!

First, the Boring Basics

When you put a subject and a predicate together, you get a clause. The fun thing is you can combine clauses together to form different types of sentences. Good writers vary the types of sentences they use. For example, don't use too many *simple* sentences. You might sound childish. However, if you use too many compound-complex sentences, your writing might be too difficult to understand.

1.) **Simple Sentences** contain a single clause (i.e. one subject, one predicate).

- John had broken his toe (* note on passive voice below)
- John shouted in pain.
- John was very stupid.

Note: Short sentences are often used to break the flow of text and provide extra emphasis during building, emotional, or trying moments in a story or scene.

2.) **Compound Sentences** contain two *independent* clauses (because they could be their own sentences) joined together with a coordinating conjunction (and, but, so).

- I didn't know why John drove off the bridge, but Mark did.
- I asked him why, but he wouldn't tell me.
- She stopped asking, but I still wondered.

3.) **Complex Sentences** contain one independent clause and one or more *dependent* clauses (because they *couldn't* be their own sentence), joined together by a subordinating conjunction

- Everything changed when John drove off the bridge.
- When I drove across that bridge, I thought about driving off, too.
- Even though I'd never do something like that, I thought about it often.

4.) **Compound-Complex Sentences** contain at least two independent clauses and one dependent clauses.

- Sometimes, when I drove over the bridge, my hand would start to turn the steering wheel toward the edge, but I would stop myself because I didn't want to die.

Passive Voice: Example by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

“No, your boy had been observed, and that gave me a guide where to look.”
from *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

In general, avoid passive voice in creative fiction. It detracts and subconsciously distracts from the message, and dilutes the sentence. Passive voice is most often used in scientific documentation.

So now you’ve seen how sentences are supposed to look, but what happens when sentences go wrong? And how can you avoid it? Here are four common ways sentence structure goes wrong:

1. Comma Splice

What if you decided to take two sentences and join them with a comma instead of a period? (For the grammarphiles, this means joining two independent clauses with a comma but leaving out the subordinating conjunction.) You would have a [comma splice](#). Put in a conjunction (and, but, or, so) or replace the comma with a period.

✘ John broke his toe, he shouted in pain.

2. Fragment:

An incomplete sentence. It might have a subject. It might have a predicate. It never has both. In certain situations, fragments can be used effectively as a stylistic choice.

- John broke his toe. **And shouted in pain.** (no subject)
- Everything changed. When John drove off the bridge.

3. Run-on sentences:

Similar to a comma splice except you take out the comma. Run-on sentences are bad. Put a period in between clauses.

✘ John broke his toe he shouted in pain.

Victor Hugo, of *Les Miserables*, is the king of not only compound sentences, but also run-on sentences that go on and on and on. Still, it’s a classic read that everyone should pick up at one time in their lives.

Another famous writer, prolific with run-on sentences, is Charles Dickens.

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness...”
-- *A Tale of Two Cities*

Following are some excellent resources to use when questioning the validity, correctness and strength of your sentence structure:

- ¥ *The Only Grammar Book You'll Ever Need*, by Susan Thurman
- ¥ *The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk, Jr. and E.B. White
- ¥ *The Blue Book of Grammar and Punctuation*, by Jane Straus
- ¥ *Grammar Girl's Quick & Dirty Tips for Better Writing*, by Mignon Fogarty
- ¥ *On Writing Well*, by William Zinsser
- ¥ *Diagramming Sentences*, by Deborah White
- ¥ *Merriam-Webster's Guide to Punctuation & Style*, by Merriam-Webster
- ¥ *The Book on Writing: The Ultimate Guide to Writing Well*, by Paula LaRocque

More Online Resource Links:

- ¥ Grammar.yourdictionary.com
- ¥ Grammarly.com
- ¥ [Harvard Writing Center](http://HarvardWritingCenter.org)
- ¥ [Owl English from Purdue](http://OwlEnglish.com)

The Many Different Genres That Can be Written and Read

Narrative Non-fiction - information based on fact, presented in a format to tell a story

Essay - short literary composition that reflects the author's outlook or point. A short literary composition on a particular theme or subject, usually in prose and generally analytic, speculative, or interpretative

Biography - a written account of another person's life

Autobiography - gives the history of a person's life, written or told by that person. Often written in Narrative form of their person's life

Speech - oral communication; ability to express one's thoughts and emotions by speech, sounds, and gesture; delivered in an address or discourse

Basic Nonfiction - informational text dealing with an actual, real-life subject. This genre of literature offers opinions or conjectures on facts and reality. This includes biographies, history, essays, speech, and narrative non-fiction. Nonfiction opposes fiction and is distinguished from those fiction genres of literature like poetry and drama which is the next section we will discuss.

Genres of Fiction: Defined as narrative literary works whose content is produced by the imagination and is not necessarily based on fact - something is feigned, invented, or imagined.

Drama is the genre of literature that's subject for compositions is dramatic art in the way it is represented. This genre is stories composed in verse or prose, usually for theatrical performance, where conflicts and emotion are expressed through dialogue and action.

Poetry is verse and rhythmic writing with imagery that evokes an emotional response from the reader. The art of poetry is rhythmical in composition, written or spoken. This genre of literature is for exciting pleasure by beautiful, imaginative, or elevated thoughts.

Fantasy is the forming of mental images with strange or other worldly settings or characters; fiction which invites suspension of reality.

Humor is the faculty of perceiving what is amusing or comical. Fiction full of fun, fancy, and excitement which meant to entertain. This genre of literature can actually be seen and contained within all genres.

A **Fable** is a story about supernatural or extraordinary people Usually in the form of narration that demonstrates a useful truth. In Fables, animals often speak as humans that are legendary and supernatural tales.

Fairy Tales or wonder tales are a kind of folktale or fable. Sometimes the stories are about fairies or other magical creatures, usually for children.

Science-Fiction is a story based on impact of potential science, either actual or imagined, set in the future or on other planets.

Short Story is fiction so brief that is not able to support any subplots.

Realistic Fiction is a story that can actually happen and is true to real life.

Folklore are songs, stories, myths, and proverbs handed down by word of mouth; a genre of literature that is widely held, but false and based on unsubstantiated beliefs.

Historical Fiction is a story with fictional characters in a historical setting.

Horror is an overwhelming and painful feeling caused by literature that is frightfully shocking, terrifying, or revolting. Fiction in which events evoke a feeling of dread in both the characters and the reader.

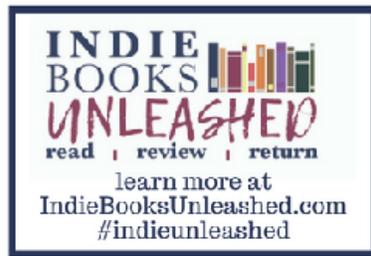
A **Tall Tale** is a humorous story with blatant exaggerations, swaggering heroes who do the impossible with an here of nonchalance.

Legend is a story that sometimes of a national or folk hero. Legend is based on fact but also includes imaginative material.

Mystery is a genre of fiction that deals with solving a crime or unraveling of secrets. Anything that is kept secret or remains unexplained or unknown.

Mythology is a legend or traditional narrative, based in part on historical events, revealing human behavior and natural phenomena by its symbolism.

Fiction in Verse is full-length fiction of verse is one of the genres of literature in which the narrative is usually presented in blank verse form



Indie Books Unleashed (IBU) is a community-driven program for self-published authors that helps them get printed books read and reviewed. The goal is to provide forums for indie authors to distribute their books into markets that wouldn't otherwise be available to them.

IBU circumvents the routes of traditional publishing *and* traditional book distribution. We do this by bringing authors' books to venues outside of normal paths... to businesses such as salons, cafes, car dealerships, doctors offices, dentists offices, etc. They become participating members in IBU at no charge.

Each author is required to bring three (3) new locations into the program. However, if they choose not to contact locations directly, IBU will do so for them, and then we request that six business names be provided.

Once an author joins IBU, they will receive the three posters to bring to their locations, as well as IBU and 'Buy Me' Stickers for the books that they will ship. Authors can then go onto the IBU website and see what venues are available to ship their books, and away they go!

IBU is a great opportunity for authors to make use of their initial free giveaways by sending them through IBU instead of to their aunt's bedside table. It's also a great way to revive a book that's been out for a while for new publicity and awareness.

WHY IBU? Simple. Because books are meant to read. Join us today!