

### Masterpiece Sentences Step 3

One of the great things about language is that you can pick up the pieces and move them all around. Try and experiment with emphasizing different ideas, so you can put the subject before the predicate, or you can put the predicate before the subject, or you could split the predicate up and try different compositions. And when you think about a composition, think about maybe a musician, who decides where all the musical notes go and who plays what part at what time or to go with our metaphor here, the idea of a painter figuring out where on the page the subject is going to go and where all the little elements are going to be placed to get the maximum effect.

So this is what this step is all about-- step three, Experimenting with Composition. And what we can do is we can take these pieces like a puzzle and rearrange them and move them around and just kind of see how it sounds, so we're going to experiment. We're going to try some things out. Right now we have, "The birds fly with wings outstretched at sunset over the waves." But we can change that. We could emphasize how they're doing it, so they're doing it with wings outstretched, the birds fly over the waves at sunset. Or we could emphasize where they're doing it-- over the waves at sunset, the birds fly with wings outstretched.

Or maybe we want to put the emphasis on when they're doing it. Whatever comes first usually gets the emphasis, so at sunset, with wings outstretched, the birds fly over the waves. That one sounds pretty good. So let's try to hang onto that composition as we move on to step four.

---