

Image Grammar Chapter 5
Artist's Special Effects
The Grammar-Meaning Connection

- Creating Special Effects with Punctuation
- Creating Special Effects with a Greek Influence
- Creating Special Effects with Sentence Structure

Creating Special Effects with Punctuation

Good writers use “incorrect” punctuation to create meanings that otherwise couldn't be expressed.

First, we review an overhead that has professional writers quoted to show how bad punctuation becomes good. Next, *Dawkins' Punctuation Hierarchy* needs to be distributed and reviewed to gain an understanding of the length of separation that marks create in writing. Once there is a general understanding of the marks, the class makes an attempt to punctuate a piece of writing. We decided to do this via overhead rather than individuals at their seats. Either manner is acceptable.

Creating Special Effects with a Greek Influence

This strategy engages the students in playing with words. They are asked to recreate similar sentences but are encouraged to manipulate both semantics and syntax in the sentence.

The class is divided into groups of three and given a sentence. They are to think about saying the same thing in different words and/or different order. They are to come up with five new sentences. This helps the students think about structure, word choice and impact of the words they choose.

Creating Special Effects with Sentence Structure

By employing some of the “incorrect” structures that have been presented the past couple weeks, students are asked to write a one-paragraph description using fragments and/or run-on sentences to capture the whirl of action.

Once again in groups of 3 to 4, the students are asked to think about word choice, syntax and punctuation in order to capture a moment of frenzy. This shows students why even “incorrect” grammar is correct and why good authors choose what they choose. The students will employ the “zoom-lens” technique, brush strokes and sentence fragments and run-ons to make their writing more artistic and appealing.