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EXERCISES IN SENTENCE-STRUCTURE

I

If you work out your thought carefully, and express it so that your language accurately represents what is in your mind, your sentences are almost certain to be varied in form. Dull, monotonous, obscure sentences, hanging loosely together, are a result of inaccurate thinking, or slovenliness in the expression of thought. The beginner should notice in how many ways the same substantial idea may be expressed, each variation usually indicating a different shade of meaning or of emphasis. Consider the following:

1. (a) We left the main path and struck into the woods. (b) Leaving the main path, we struck into the woods. (c) On leaving the main path, we struck into the woods. (d) When we left the main path, we struck into the woods. (e) Striking into the woods, we left the main path, etc.

2. (a) There was an epidemic of scarlet fever, and he did not go to school. (b) Because of an epidemic of scarlet fever, he did not go to school. (c) An epidemic of scarlet fever prevented his going to school. (d) Since there was an epidemic of scarlet fever, he did not go to school. (e) Scarlet fever being epidemic, he did not go to school.

3. (a) The classes were so arranged as to give a variety of occupation, both in the forenoon and afternoon. (b) The classes were so arranged that a variety of occupation might be given, etc. (c) The classes were arranged to give variety, etc. (d) The classes were arranged with the purpose of giving, etc. (e) The classes were arranged in order that a variety, etc.