

Grammar and Style

VARY SENTENCE STRUCTURE

To add interest and rhythm, Shakespeare often used **inverted sentences**, in which the subject follows the verb or part of the verb phrase. He also used inverted word order, placing an object before a verb, an adjective after a noun, or a prepositional phrase before the noun or verb it modifies. Here are two examples from *Macbeth*.

Examples

Infected minds/To their deaf pillows will discharge their secrets. (Act 5, Scene 1, lines 59–60)

Now does he feel/His secret murders sticking on his hands. (Act 5, Scene 2, lines 16–17)

Directions: Underline the inverted parts of speech in each sentence. Then write your own lines with a similar pattern.

1. Near Birnam Wood/Shall we well meet them.

2. What a sigh is there!

3. Here let them lie/Till famine and the ague eat them up.

4. That way the noise is.

5. Of all men else I have avoided thee.
